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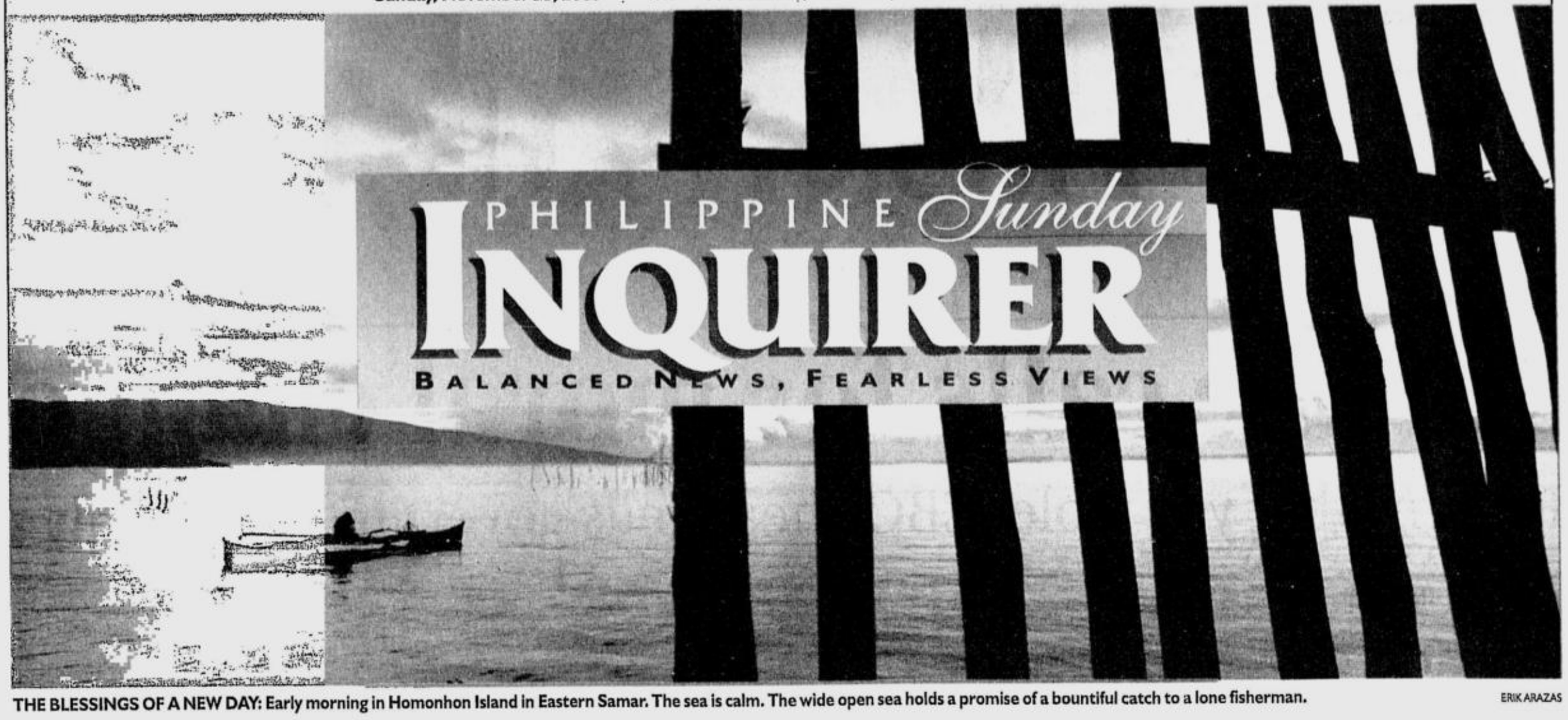
PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW DAY: Early morning in Homonhon Island in Eastern Samar. The sea is calm. The wide open sea holds a promise of a bountiful catch to a lone fisherman. ERIK ARAZAS

Typhoon spares Bicol

'Mina' lingers at sea, veers north to Aurora, Quezon

By Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio, Ephraim Aguilar and Jaymee Gamil

WHAT WAS FEARED TO BE "SUPERTYPHOON MINA" changed course early yesterday and veered toward the provinces of Aurora and Quezon, appearing to have spared the Bicol region.

At noon, around 96,000 evacuees from coastal villages and flood-prone areas in Albay province were given the go-signal to return to their homes.

With the 11 a.m. weather bulletin showing little change in Mina's course, the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council issued an advisory to local government units and disaster coordinating councils telling them to send the evacuees home.

The credibility of Pagasa's forecasts was once again questioned after it reported a change in the typhoon's track.

At a media briefing yesterday morning at the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda expressed his continued faith in the weather bureau.

But he said he was strongly recommending the upgrade of Pagasa's forecasting equipment. *(See "What went wrong" on Page A6.)*

Mina (international name: Mitag), still packing maximum winds of 175 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 210 kph, changed track and swirled from west to northwest at around 5 a.m., heading straight for northern Luzon.

It was forecast to make landfall between Aurora and Isabela tonight. Based on its earlier track, it was expected to hit Catanduanes last night.

"The change in track was an offshoot of its interaction with Typhoon 'Lando.' Since Lando exited in the west, Mina tended to move northwest," Pagasa weather forecaster Christopher Perez said in a phone interview.

Perez said Mina had "swirled into a weak stirring movement."

"That's why it was almost stationary

TYPHOON/ A6

Ateneo graduates in 5 years MDs with MBAs

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO IS ALSO an MBA?

The idea may not be so far-fetched as five years from now the Ateneo de Manila University will graduate the first batch of medical doctors who will not only be healers but managers and leaders as well.

The quintessential "person for others" that the Jesuit-run institution has been molding and offering to the world will now be taking on a more demanding contemporary role.

He or she will be filling a challenging job description and venturing into frontiers that earlier generations of Ateneans, or for that matter doctors produced by other universities, had not trained for.

The Ateneo opened this year the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), taking in the first batch of 75 would-be doctor-manager-leaders.

"The state of medical education in the Philippines is that most, if not all, medical schools define themselves [as institutions] to prepare their students to be doctors," said ASMPH dean Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, a neurologist and a former health secretary who has a master's in business administration himself.

Bengzon believes doctors should

ATENEO/ A15

Fe del Mundo: Her children's hospital is 50 as she turns 96

By Volt Contreras

FE DEL MUNDO—RENOWNED pediatrician, war heroine, educator, author, inventor and owner of a brain once mistaken by another doctor for that of a 27-year-old—still sees patients at the Quezon City hospital she established half a century ago.

She now needs a wheelchair, however, but the diminutive *doktora* of Banawe Street does not plan to quit her daily rounds anytime soon—not even after she turns 96 on Tuesday.

The Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, which is marking its 50th anniversary also on Tuesday, has lined up a program of activities that will kick off today and culminate on its founder's birthday.

As part of the celebration, a video documentary of Del Mundo's lifework will be shown—an effort to sum up her achievements and milestones since she graduated valedictorian from the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine in 1933.

The latest of many tributes may miss out on certain things, as Del Mundo has constantly raised her own level of service and expertise since she first earned accolades, such as a National Scientist Award (1980), a Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service (1977) and an Elizabeth Blackwell Award (1966).

The Magsaysay is the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. The

FE DEL MUNDO/ A19

PIONEERING PEDIATRICIAN is still at it in her hospital-home on Banawe Street, QC. In diagnostics, Dr. Del Mundo relies less on machines and labs and more on her "clinical eye" and daily Mass. JOAN BONDOC

Divers plant giant clams underwater

By TJ Burgonio

NASUGBU, BATANGAS—LOCAL FISHERmen weren't around to see the giant clams gently "planted" around the seabed but in a few years, they will benefit from the clam garden with a bigger harvest of fish.

Under overcast skies, divers plunged into the calm seas off the picturesque beach of Barangay Papaya here, and gingerly unloaded giant clams from their boat, to plant them on the seabed last Wednesday.

By noon, a total of 102 clams had been seeded among the coral reefs.

"They're like babies," Jess Lucas, EVP of SM Investments Corp. (SMIC), said as he watched—from another boat—a diver

DIVERS/ A6

PLANTING CLAMS IS SO MUCH FUN, says Dave Valdes of World Wide Fund-Philippines before going down to the seabed 10 feet under water at Pico de Loro Cove in Hamilo Coast, Nasugbu, Batangas. RYAN LIM

Donita brings Christmas to Read-Along kids

By Schatzi Quodala
Inquirer Research

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR THE children who attended yesterday's Inquirer Read-Along as television host and actress Donita Rose read the story of the Nativity, concerning the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and of Jesus's birth in a manger.

The two other readers were 11-year-old Camille Re'e Montecer and teacher Ma. Regina Corazon Sevilla who interpreted stories on what it takes to win life's struggles.

The book "The Birth of Jesus," as re-

DONITA/ A6

Hello? GMA calls Ifugao gov, gets wrong number

By Alcuin Papa

EVEN WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART speakerphone, the President of the Philippines can still dial the wrong number.

During yesterday's conference

HELLO?/ A15

JOB Market
Build your future with us

SUNDAY BIZ / B4
'Tis the best Christmas in 20 years: Thanks to dollars from OFWs, according to retailers expecting lushly green holidays

SUNDAY MAGAZINE
Confessions of easy rider Randy David: Not easy to explain motorcycle driving, this touch of deviance and danger that gives texture to our uni-linear lives

LIFESTYLE /C1
Some enchanted evening with Tessa Valdes in Hollywood and McDreamy

LIFESTYLE /F1
Isabel Preysler: An exclusive with one of the world's most beautiful

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Quezon including Polillo Island, Quirino, Aurora, Isabela and Northern Samar will experience stormy weather. Cagayan, the rest of Southern Luzon, the rest of Samar provinces including Biliran Island and northern part of Leyte will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Gusty Winds	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Stormy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/24/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2

31 13 | 2 3 9 1 6 1

(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

7 3 0 | 4 7 1

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

6 11 12 19 40 41

₱4,683,628.80

SIX DIGIT

Prelate calls for moral change

Return what you stole, CBCP head tells government officials

THE LEADER OF THE COUNTRY'S bishops has challenged government officials to "do a Zacchaeus" and give any ill-gotten possessions to the poor.

Amid the unresolved allegations of corruption against the Arroyo administration, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, in his blog yesterday, called for a moral transformation among those in public office, saying the faithful were in search of "people who would be humble, courageous and decided enough to do a Zacchaeus."

In the Bible, Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree so he could make out the figure of Jesus in a huge crowd. According to the story, Jesus asked the hated tax collector to come down from the tree as he intended to visit his house. This gesture led to Zacchaeus' repentance and his vow to make restitution for his sins.

"Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount," Zacchaeus told Jesus.

Lagdameo, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said that like Zacchaeus, the whole country needs a moral transformation.

"As a response to the state of moral bankruptcy in public life, of probably irremediable loss of credibility and trust, a call has been made for moral revolution," he said.

Lagdameo said the Church's social doctrine teaches that socioeconomic issues have moral implications because there is a "necessary, intrinsic and reciprocal" relationship between morality, economics and poverty.

He mentioned the allegations of political bribery, the Glorietta and Batasan blasts that killed and injured many, and the questionable multimillion-peso government projects as the issues that are crying out for resolution and closure.

He also expressed support for the various calls for moral recovery sounded by religious and civil society groups as their response to the "list of unresolved cases of social, economic and political concerns that keep piling up."

"We are consoled by the fact that some of our public officials and different sectors of civil society are seeing such a need for a moral revolution. May this attitude prevail ... may the number of good-willed people increase," Lagdameo said.

Last month, the CBCP, in one of its strongest statements against the Arroyo administration, called the government morally bankrupt amid allegations of corruption in the National Broadband Network deal with the China-based ZTE Corp. and alleged Palace payoffs to local government officials to maintain support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lagdameo said that even before the October statement on moral bankruptcy in government, the CBCP had long been calling for moral reform in government.

"And we would like to say it again. Nothing new, but the resolve may be," he said.

Beverly T. Natividad

WHAT'S INSIDE

JEEPNEY drivers set protests Monday /A5

LET PEOPLE share in mining wealth—Atienza /A9

BUKIDNON tillers continue march on Palace /A9

This time, EU hails GMA for call to free Suu Kyi

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS lauded President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for Burma's military rulers to release Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 of the past 18 years under house arrest.

The EU, which had earlier condemned the Arroyo administration for its failure to put a stop to extrajudicial killings in the country, this time supported the President's call for the prompt release of the Burmese freedom fighter and democracy icon.

A 14-man EU parliamentary delegation visiting the Philippines called on Ms Arroyo Friday in Malacañang to convey its appreciation for the President's forceful position on the need for democratic reforms in Burma (Myanmar).

Ms Arroyo made the call during a dinner on Wednesday with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) who had gathered in Singapore for their annual summit.

"We support very strongly your call for the release of Suu Kyi," said Hartmut Nassauer of Germany, head of the EU delegation, during a meeting with the President in Malacañang's Music Room.

He said his group "respects your firm stand" on Suu Kyi's release and the President's exhortation to Burma's ruling junta to return to the path of democracy.

Besides Nassauer, the members of the delegation were Ambassador Alistair MacDonald (envoy of the EU to the Philippines), Ambassador Peter Beckingham and Glyn Ford (United Kingdom), Zsabolcs Fazakas and Csaba Ory (Hungary), Dariusz Grabowski (Poland), Jules Maaten (the Netherlands), Jean-Pierre Audy (France), Giovanna Corda (Belgium) and Barbara Weiler (Germany).

In response, the President said she was "glad" the delegation supported her stand on the Burma issue.

She said she had to rush back to the Philippines Thursday, a day before the four-day summit was to end, to personally oversee government relief operations in the areas battered by Typhoon "Lando."

The EU delegation also cited the Philippines for being the only country in Asia which has abolished the death penalty, and congratulated the President for taking steps to stem the tide of political and media killings.

They, however, informed Ms Arroyo that the European press had been devoting more space to the killings in the Philippines than to reports on the country's improving economy.

The President, in turn, disclosed the latest developments in the prosecution of suspects in extrajudicial killings.

There have been six convictions so far and 12 cases are being tried, she reported.

Two other cases, she added, were in the "advanced stages of prosecution."

She explained that while she wanted the trial of the suspects in the extrajudicial killings to proceed speedily, 28 cases were "stuck" because the supposed victims—mostly members of the Left—refused to cooperate in the investigation.

"They simply want to condemn the government for the killings," she said.

The President also informed the EU delegation that she had created a Committee on Human Rights and the Melo Commission to dig deeper into cases of political killings. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Pinoy crew safe

ALL 45 FILIPINO crew members of the Canadian cruise ship, the M/V Explorer, that sank in the Antarctic have been rescued and are safe, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal said the Philippine embassies in London and Oslo reported that the Filipinos—six women and 39 men—were rescued along with the rest of the crew and all 91 passengers of the Explorer and taken to a Chilean air base on King George Island by the Norwegian ship, Nordnorge. *(See story in The World, Page A24.)*

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo directed Philippine Ambassador to Chile Consuelo Puyat-Reyes to provide assistance to the rescued Filipinos. *Cynthia Balana*

ABADIA'S TESTIMONY:

Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.) after taking Boston C within one hour

Previous History

I discovered I had Type 2 Diabetes 3 years ago with my blood sugar level reaching more than 200. Medication was prescribed to control sugar level – a combination of Solosa and Metformin. Since the start of the medication, my blood sugar level is going up and down during the day.

First Encounter with Boston C

When I read in the Phil. Daily Inquirer a one page advertisement regarding herbal anti-cancer and anti-diabetes drugs, I took time out to visit Mr. tony Agustin in 229 Macopa St., Barangay Maligaya, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

I was given on the spot medication, 3 glasses of Boston C.

- My intial blood sugar level was = 9.
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 8.8
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 7.6
- 15 minutes after drinking one glass = 6.4

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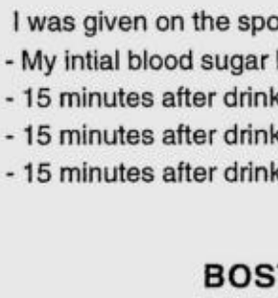

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Atienza, Drilon in talks to unify Liberal Party

By Vincent Cabreza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon,* and Norman Bordadora

BAGUIO CITY—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza, who leads a proadministration faction of the Liberal Party, has begun backroom negotiations with former Sen. Franklin Drilon to unify the party behind a single standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential election.

LP stalwart Eleazar Quinto, who came here with Atienza to grace this year's annual mining safety conference, confirmed that Atienza and Drilon resumed talks "only recently."

Both Atienza and Quinto said the 2010 presidential election was a "good opportunity" for the LP to recover its political dominance.

Drilon, whose faction was recognized by the Supreme Court after months of internal strife, also hinted at unity talks yesterday in a Quezon City forum. He said he had notified Atienza-faction members of the party's national executive committee meeting tomorrow to hand over the party's leadership to Sen. Mar Roxas—so far their best bet for the presidency.

Good feedback

Roxas visited this city recently with barkers who entreated vendors at the Baguio public market to fall behind a "Roxas for President" campaign.

Roxas has refused to comment about his aspirations.

The good feedback from Roxas' provincial visits has encouraged the LP factions to talk, Quinto said.

Long time coming

"It's been so long since the LP had a president in office. The last president we installed was Diosdado Macapagal," Quinto said in Filipino. Macapagal, father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, won over Nacionalista Party candidate Carlos P. Garcia in 1961 on an antigraft platform.

Our members do not want to lose this chance so they are exerting every effort... That's why this issue of our rift should be addressed," he said.

Quinto said there was a possibility the administration coalition's bet for president may come from LP's pool of potential candidates.

Much, however, remains to be discussed between the two factions.

Drilon said yesterday the LP will be a "stand-alone party" that may ally itself with a coalition instead of being made part of the coalition.

Drilon and other LP leaders appeared at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum to drumbeat the party's meeting that would elect Roxas as the party president.

Drilon said, however, that the issue of who would be the vice presidential candidate of the party had yet to be discussed.

"We're open to alliances," the outgoing party leader said.

He said this was the case in the last elections when the LP allied itself with the United Opposition instead of being part of the anti-Arroyo alliance.

Appointed by Roxas

Roxas is now the executive vice president of the party.

The other officers, Drilon said, will be appointed by Roxas after he is elected head of the party.

"Part of the reason that we are electing Mar the party president is to give him the stature if he decides to run for President. He will have the full weight and support of the party," said former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, a former LP president.

Split into two

The LP party belonged to Ms Arroyo's coalition but split into two factions in the wake of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal in 2005.

Drilon threw the LP behind the move to demand the resignation of the President.

Atienza and some other LP local leaders, however, rallied behind the beleaguered Ms Arroyo. Later, they held a "rump "session and "ousted" Drilon as party president.

This led to prolonged factional strife in the party.

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Fe del Mundo

DR. FE DEL MUNDO
President & Founder

Photo courtesy of MEDICAL OBSERVER

DR. FE DEL MUNDO MEDICAL CENTER

at 50: A New Horizon of Light & Legacy

Dr. Fe del Mundo has poured all her great soul into an undertaking so beset with difficulty its emergence from a vision into a reality seemed impossible. She has set her faith against hardship after hardship and overcame them all for the sake of her "beloved children."

This very gallant woman is still working against incredible handicaps, and succeeding. She does not cry out for help. But, the very nature and scope of her aspiration cry out to us in a voice that should not fall on an uncaring heart nor an unhearing ear. It is a voice that cannot be denied.

Chester W. Nimitz
US Navy Admiral,
Commander Pacific Fleet

Warmest greetings to the men and women of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary.

I commend you for your efforts to continue the advocacy of Dr. Fe del Mundo whose commitment to the practice of pediatrics is truly remarkable. Dr. Fe del Mundo has dedicated her life to research that has benefited our people, especially the children, making her a National Scientist.

May this occasion further strengthen your commitment to provide the public with quality health services. For the past 50 years, the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** has been a reliable partner of government in ensuring a healthier and more productive citizenry.

Again, happy anniversary and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

The brightest star that illuminates the firmament of Philippine Pediatric Medicine is Dr. Fel del Mundo whose extraordinary career as pediatrician, scientist, educator, author, public servant, pioneer, and humanitarian spans a lifetime of more than nine and a half decades. Her story is told in the words of those who admire and love her, numerous national and international awards, and the medical center founded on her faith, prayers, sacrifices, and labor of love.

Dr. Fe del Mundo's vision-mission of providing excellent care for Filipino children, mothers, families, and communities is her legacy to the health and wealth of our nation. This commitment will continue under the management of **Accent HealthCare/STI** and the guidance of Divine Providence.

After 50 years, it is with great joy and hope that we celebrate the dawn of a new era of golden years of the hospital inspired by the living example of the light that shines in the heart of Dr. Fe del Mundo.

Elisa del Mundo Bengzon

ELISA DEL MUNDO BENGZON
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.

My warmest greetings to the officials and staff of the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc. as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, with the theme, **"Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center at 50: A New Horizon Built on FDM's Continuing Legacy".**

This august occasion serves to remind us of the essential role that play in shaping the future of children's hospitals in the country. Providing quality health service to all, especially children, is still an indispensable factor in achieving sustainable progress and development. It is for this reason that we, in the health sector, must work together to accomplish this and enable our children to live healthy and productive lives.

The Department of Health commends your accomplishments as the country's first children's hospital in providing quality and affordable health care services. I wish you all a successful celebration.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary, Department of Health
Republic of the Philippines

Very few women became legends in their lifetime, Dr. Fe del Mundo is one of them. She has deeply touched the lives of thousands of our people. Early in her professional career, she gained recognition and distinction when she broke some of Harvard University's male-dominated traditions, earning for womenfolk the respect and importance they deserve.

We are glad that a foundation has been established in her honor. Her legendary dedication and professional excellence should be emulated by those who have embraced the medical profession.

We join our people in commemorating the 50th founding anniversary of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Philippines.**

Dr. Fe del Mundo has truly become an institution in the medical profession.

Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
Mayor, Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines

The **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation** has been a pillar of the community it has served for 50 years. As it celebrates its Foundation Day, and the 96th birthday of its founder Dra. Fe del Mundo, the hospital re-affirms its commitment to deliver quality comprehensive healthcare to children and their families.

We at **Accent Healthcare/STI** are proud and privileged to work hand-in-hand with Dra. Fe del Mundo, the physicians and medical staff. As we enter the 21st century, we see a re-invigorated Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center which will continue to promote and enhance the vision of its Founder.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Dra. Fe del Mundo!

MONICO V. JACOB
Chairman of the Board
Accent Healthcare/STI

"I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST THAT YOU CAN. THE BEST WILL ALWAYS COME BACK TO YOU. I HAVE DONE WHAT IS MINE TO DO NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO DO WHAT IS YOURS.

Fe del Mundo

DR. FE DEL MUNDO
President & Founder

DR. FE DEL MUNDO MEDICAL CENTER at 50: A New Horizon of Light & Legacy

Dr. Fe del Mundo ha , her great soul into with difficulty its emergence from a vision into a reality s emed impc her faith against hardship after hardship and overcame then of her "beloved children.

This very calle and s cceeding. She lo aspiratio ut t unhearing a

Chester W. Nimitz

Warmest greetings to the men and women of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** as you celebrate your 50th Anniversar

I commend you for your efforts to continue the advocacy of Dr. Fe del M whose commitment to the practice of pediatrics is truly remarkable. Dr. Fe del M has dedicated her life to research that has benefited our people, especially the hil making her a National Scientist.

May this occasion further strengthen your commitment to provide the pub with quality health services. For the past 50 years the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** has been a reliable partner of government in ensurin healthier and more productive citizenry.

Again, happy anniversary and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Her ind inte nd lal

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or Thi ... nde th m
Accent HealthCare/STI dan Di dence

After 50 years, it is with great joy and hope that we celebrate the dawn of a nev ra of golden years of the hospital inspired by the living example of the light that shine n the heart of Dr. Fe del Mundo.

Elisa del Mundo Bengzon

ELISA DEL MUNDO BENGZON
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc.

My warmest greetings to the officials and staff of the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation, Inc. as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, with the theme, **"Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center at 50: A New Horizon Built on FDM's Continuing Legacy".**

This august occasion serves to remind us of the essential role that play in shaping the future of children's hospitals in the country. Providing quality health service to all, especially children, is still an indispensable factor in achieving sustainable progress and development. It is for this reason that we, in the health sector, must work together to accomplish this and enable our children to live healthy and productive lives.

The Department of Health commends your accomplishments as the country's first children's hospital in providing quality and affordable health care services. I wish you all a successful celebration.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary, Department of Health
Republic of the Philippines

Very few women became legends in their lifetime, Dr. Fe del Mundo is one of them. She has deeply touched the lives of thousands of our people. Early in her professional career, she gained recognition and distinction when she broke some of Harvard University's male-dominated traditions, earning for womenfolk the respect and importance they deserve.

We are glad that a foundation has been established in her honor. Her legendary dedication and professional excellence should be emulated by those who have embraced the medical profession.

We join our people in commemorating the 50th founding anniversary of the **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Philippines.**

Dr. Fe del Mundo has truly become an institution in the medical profession.

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
Mayor, Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines

The **Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation** has been a pillar of the community it has served for 50 years. As it celebrates its Foundation Day, and the 96th birthday of its founder Dra. Fe del Mundo, the hospital re-affirms its commitment to deliver quality comprehensive healthcare children and their families.

We at **Accent Healthcare/STI** proud and privileged to work hand-in-hand with Dra. Fe del Mundo, the physicians and medical staff. As we enter the 21st century, we see a re-invigorated Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center which will continue to promote and enhance the vision of its Founder.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Dra. Fe del Mundo!

MONICO V. JACOB
Chairman of the Board
Accent Healthcare/STI

Jeepney strikes set

OUTRAGED OVER THE SUCCESSIVE fuel price hikes, a nationwide jeepney drivers association announced yesterday it would begin a series of protest marches, noise barrage and selective route strikes tomorrow, in preparation for a general strike next month.

The Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) said it would march from the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to Mendiola, the street leading to Malacañang in Manila, starting at 1 p.m., to dramatize three demands: That government restrict the oil price hikes, scrap the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on oil products, and suspend the Oil Deregulation Law.

Piston secretary-general George San Mateo said there would also be protest actions in various regional centers although the Bicol region strike to be led by the Concerned Drivers at Operators for Reforms (Condor-Piston-Bicol) was cancelled due to the stormy weather.

He said the Southern Tagalog Transport Sector Organization for Reforms (Starter-Piston) would push through with its strike on selected routes in Laguna and Batangas.

Up north, the Piston-Metro Baguio chapter will stage a rally and noise barrage at People's Park.

In Negros Occidental, the United Negros Drivers Center (Undoc-Piston) will hold a protest caravan, to be capped by a noise barrage at the Bacolod City Plaza.

In Cebu, there will be pickets by the Nagkahiusang Drayber sa Sugbu (Nadsu-Piston) in front of oil depots and government offices.

In Iloilo, there will be a rally and noise barrage by Piston-Iloilo at the city plaza. *Riza T. Olchondra*

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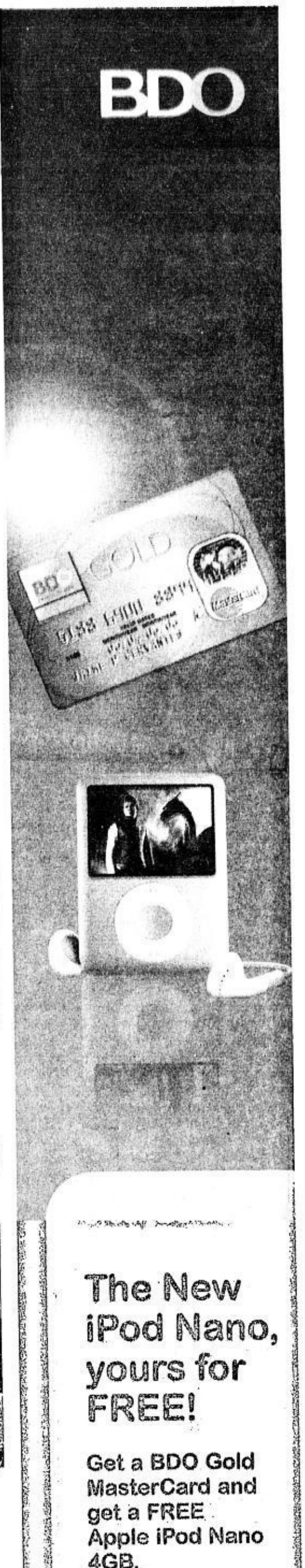
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We find ways

Typhoon spares Bicol

From page A1

for the past 12 hours," he said.

This morning, the typhoon is forecast to be 210 km southeast of Casiguran, Aurora.

In its 5 p.m. bulletin yesterday, the weather bureau Pagasa said Mina remained almost stationary over the Philippine Sea, some 180 km east northeast of Virac, Catanduanes.

Signal No. 3 remained in effect over Catanduanes and Camarines Norte.

Camarines Sur, Albay, Quezon, Quirino, Aurora and Isabela were placed under Signal No. 2, while Sorsogon, Romblon, Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Cagayan remained under Signal No. 1.

But Mina is still expected to bring stormy weather to the Bicol region, Perez said.

"Within the next three days, the eastern parts of the Visayas and Luzon should expect moderate to heavy rains, with gusty winds in Bicol and northern Samar," he said.

In Legazpi City, Cedric Daep, executive officer of the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), said around 70,000 persons who were evacuated from lahar zones around Mayon Volcano still had to stay in government-run shelters until further notice.

Even Anthony Golez, spokesperson of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, said "the worst was not yet over" for Bicol.

"Let's wait for the typhoon to leave the Philippine area of responsibility," he said in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

Golez also said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the "preemptive evacuation" of tens of thousands of residents of coastal and mountainous areas in Aurora and Quezon.

Perez said that "by Sunday, we should expect stormy weather over northern Luzon, and moderate rain in the Bicol region."

"On Monday, when the typhoon is already off the coast of Ilocos Sur, it will be stormy in the Ilocos region, with light to moderate rains in other parts of Luzon," he said.

Metro Manila will be cloudy, with rain showers and occasional gusty winds.

New evacuations

Close to 100,000 people are set to be evacuated from coastal areas and riverbanks in Aurora and Isabela.

OCD administrator Glenn Rabonza told reporters yesterday that based on information from local officials, 54,000 people will be evacuated in Isabela and another 40,000 in Aurora.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, who took a call from Ms Arroyo during a meeting of the NDCC yesterday afternoon, said most of the evacuees were from the coastal areas of Palanan and Dinapigue towns.

Rabonza said preparations for Mina's coming were "very good" despite its change of course. He said military units and assets in areas likely to be affected by the typhoon's new path had been mobilized.

Mina has displaced more than 1,000 families in three provinces in the Visayas.

Reports reaching the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Eastern Visayas revealed that the displaced families, representing 5,615 persons, came from various towns in Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Biliran provinces.

At-risk residents

According to NDCC spokesperson Golez, more than 200,000 evacuees in Bicol will have to remain in evacuation centers.

"The President has instructed the NDCC to take precautionary and preventive measures. Provincial governors have been alerted, and all contingency plans are in place," Golez said.

He said Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., the NDCC chair, had relayed Ms Arroyo's instruction to regional disaster officials in the Ilocos, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, and Central and Southern Luzon, as well as the Armed Forces.

Golez said the new round of evacuations would start with residents of coastal areas at risk from storm surges, and people living along riverbanks and on mountain slopes threatened by floods and landslides.

"The evacuation is taking place as of the moment... We are looking at around tens of thousands [of residents]," he said, adding that government agencies as well as the AFP Northern Luzon Command had been mobilized.

Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said the weather bureau had prepared two scenarios for Mina—one, that it would slam into the Bicol region, and the other, that it would head for Aurora and Quezon. *(See Box.)*

"Now, Pagasa has informed us that the storm would follow the second scenario," Golez said.

2 weather systems

Nilo said a weakening high-pressure area northwest of the country near Hong Kong, and Lando, which left the country last week, was pulling Mina north, while another high-pressure area trailing Mina over the Pacific Ocean was also pushing Mina northward into its new course.

The change of course was detected at around 4 a.m. yesterday, Nilo said.

"[The two weather systems] modified the environmental systems surrounding the typhoon, changing its movement," he said.

According to Nilo, Mina will gather strength as it approaches land and weaken when it hits Aurora and Isabela tonight.

After making landfall, Mina is likely to cut through the provinces of Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Benguet and Ilocos Sur, he said.

The storm is likely to exit Ilocos Sur by noon tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Magat Dam in Isabela and Angat Dam in Bulacan are continuing to release water to prevent overflow.

Binga and Ambuklao Dams in Benguet have likewise released water into San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

AFP's focus

The AFP spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, also announced that the military leadership had declared a suspension of military offensive operations (Somo) effective at noon yesterday against communist rebels in the entire Luzon, including the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) area.

Bacarro said the Somo was declared "to support the government's disaster preparedness, to proactively mitigate and respond to anticipated destruction to be brought about by Mina and to allow the AFP to focus on its disaster-response role in the areas affected by the typhoon."

Decreasing pressure

In Legazpi City, Lilian Guillermo, weather specialist of the Pagasa-Legazpi station, said the decreasing pressure in northern Luzon was the main factor that triggered Mina to change course.

Guillermo said that if Mina did not change course the whole of yesterday and maintained its 11-kph speed, the closest possible distance it would have from north of Legazpi would be almost 200 km this morning.

She said Mina's radius was around 350 km, so it could still bring rainfall and winds to Albay.

On Friday, Mina was moving westward and was expected to hit the Bicol region at dawn yesterday.

Albay residents were expecting to feel Mina's impact early yesterday, but there were only isolated rains and moderately strong winds.

Apology

Salceda apologized to local families and businessmen for the short-term disruption of their livelihood, but said it was the price to pay for a "zero casualty" target.

He said the preemptive evacuation had already cost at least P19 million.

A total of P5.4 million was also released by the Albay provincial government to the provincial health office for the emergency purchase of medicines.

"The current supply of food packs for 34,000 is still up for distribution. It was a commitment," Salceda said.

No additional evacuations had been undertaken as of 5 p.m. Friday.

The PDCC said there were 156,000 persons (or 32,344 families) from over 90 affected Albay villages staying in different shelters as of Friday night. ***With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas***

Pagasa: What went wrong?

By Alcuin Papa

WAS PAGASA WRONG IN PREDICTING THE path of Typhoon "Mina"? The weather bureau does not think so.

In a conference of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) yesterday afternoon with President Macapagal-Arroyo in attendance, Science and Technology Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said that as early as Thursday, the weather bureau told the media that there were two scenarios on Mina's path.

Yumul, a former officer in charge of Pagasa, said the first was that Mina would slam into Bicol and exit through Oriental Mindoro. The other was that it would hit Aurora and Isabela provinces, cut through northern Luzon and exit through Ilocos Sur.

"Is CNN right and was Pagasa wrong? No," said Yumul, referring to the Cable News Network that predicted Mina would hit Aurora and Isabela instead of the Bicol region.

Yumul also said Pagasa had studied various models from other weather centers in Japan, Hong Kong and the US Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) run by the US Navy based in Hawaii.

The latter had predicted Mina's present course.

"Other climate models use mathematical models. But Pagasa uses not only numerical but also real-time field station data," he said.

Yumul said there was no use comparing the JTWC with Pagasa.

He also said Bicol would still experience heavy rains.

Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro earlier told reporters that other models had been studied for Mina.

"There are a lot of models, and Pagasa has its own model, and we compare. These models have different conclusions, but we have to buttress [a conclusion] with ground data," she said.

Yumul said Pagasa forecasts were "official" and accountable. Other models did not have any accountability, he said.

According to regulations of the World Meteorological Organization, predictions of the official agency of the host country apply in so far as the host country is concerned, Yumul said.

"Pagasa looks at other models from other climate centers. Any layman looking at these models will not come up with an intelligent decision. But Pagasa has to make a stand. Our stand—that the storm would track a western direction—was based on available information of Pagasa," he said.

Divers plant giant clams underwater to revive dying sea

From page A1

scoop and pour seawater on two clams before taking them 10 feet under water.

The clam-seeding, initiated by SMIC and its partner World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines, was designed to regenerate the marine life in this part of the South China Sea that has been threatened by overfishing.

Clams serve as nurseries for small fish, invertebrates and tiny crustaceans.

They will come

"If you put clams, other [creatures] will come. Fish, soft corals, seaweeds, snails, lobsters, what have you," said Dr. Suzanne Mingoa-Licuanan of the UP Marine Science Institute who oversaw the clam-seeding. "Giant clams serve as nurseries for marine organisms. They clean the waters, they beautify the place. In its entirety, it's all good."

The clam garden lies within a delineated 160-square-meter area underwater, a mere 80 meters from the shore of Pico de Loro cove in Barangay Papaya, a P4-billion seaside resort being developed by SMIC.

The cove is part of the Hamilo Coast, 1,800-hectare property straddling lush valleys and mountains in Nasugbu that jut out to sea that is now seen as SMIC's largest land development project.

To "give reverence" to the idyllic place, the SMIC and WWF-Philippines developed a marine ecosystem project, chiefly to regenerate the marine life in the sea, and tapped the UP Marine Institute to make it the next clam-seeding site.

Regeneration

"We're trying to make sure that the corals regenerate, the fish come back to the way it was before, and get aquatic resources rejuvenated," said Lucas of SMIC in an interview aboard a boat.

But it's also another way to get the endangered giant clam species (*Tridacna gigas*) cultivated in Nasugbu waters, he added. The species, prized for its shell and meat, has declined in population from hunting.

Giant clam meat is considered an aphrodisiac in Asia-Pacific countries. The shells are collected and made into dishes, jewelry and ornaments.

The species, the most massive of seven known giant clam species, can grow to more than 1.5 meters and weigh more than 260 kilograms.

According to WWF-Philippines president Dave Valdes, overfishing and encroachments into the municipal waters by commercial fishermen on high-speed boats equipped with high-tech fishing gear are the common complaints of fisherfolk.

After years of overfishing, the fish are now just starting to come back, he said.

The clams (locally known as *taklobos*), cultured and grown to a certain size for four years in a marine laboratory in Bolinao, Pangasinan in northern Luzon, would make sure the fish would come back.

No need to feed them

"If you put them (the clams) together, there will be hiding places for fish. They also give parts of their body as food for the fish," Licuanan of the UP Marine Institute said.

The clam garden would be closely monitored by the fishing community's own Bantay Dagat to keep fishermen at bay, but otherwise, the mollusks would thrive on their own.

"You don't have to feed them; they photosynthesize," said the marine biologist, who is spearheading a move to restore natural clam population in Philippine waters through seeding.

But it might take some time before results would be seen, she admitted.

"In Bolinao, where we have thousands of clams, we've been waiting for recruits (baby and juvenile clams) for 20 years. It's just now that we're seeing some. It's difficult to start looking for them; it's like looking for a needle in a haystack," Licuanan said.

"But this is a good start," she added

Donita Rose brings early Christmas to Read-Along kids

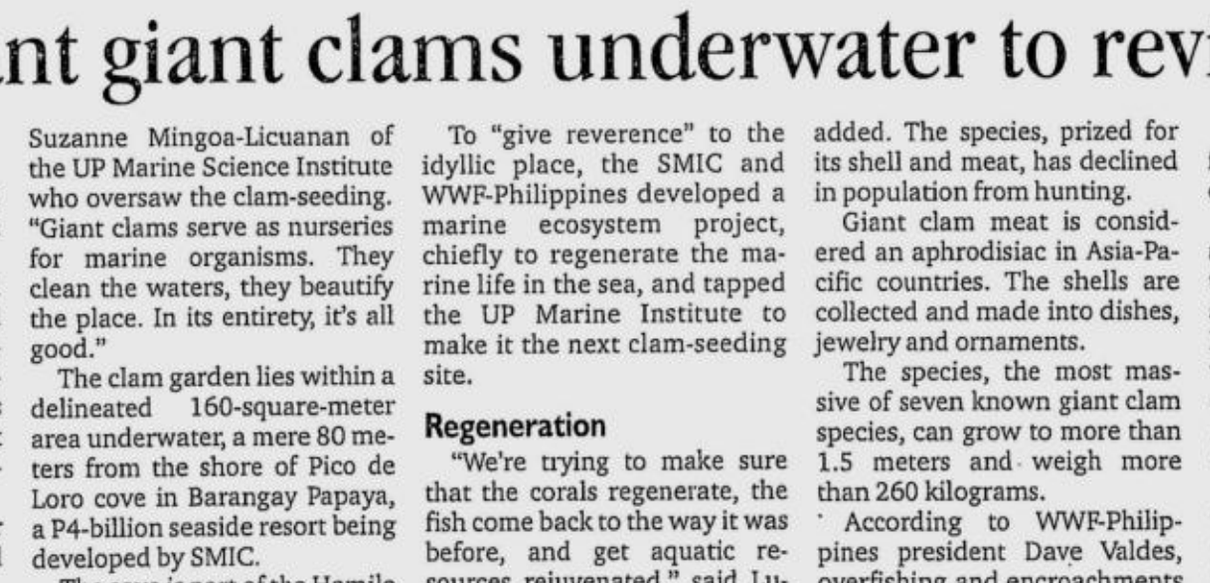
From page A1

told by Tanya Luther Argawal, was read by Rose to about 60 children in Taglish, or a mix of English and Tagalog.

Rose, a mainly English-speaking Amerasian, said translating the all-English text into Taglish was not easy.

"Some of the Tagalog equivalents of the words I needed to translate were even alien to me, like *sabsaban* [manger] and *kapanganakan* [birth]," she said.

"However difficult it was for me to translate the story, I still tried because I wanted the children to understand the story and the easiest way for them to understand was for me to use their usual medium," said Rose.



EXPERT READER to her son, Donita Rose, goes public for the first time on Saturday at the INQUIRER Read-Along session to the delight of about 60 kids who listen to her retell the Christmas story in Taglish. RODEL ROTONI

Expert reader

Rose is one of the hosts of the ABS-CBN morning show "Umagang Kay Ganda." She has acted in around 30 movies and was one of the first Filipinos to become a VJ for MTV Asia.

Although it was her first time to do a public storytelling for children, Rose considers herself an expert as she loves reading to her son JP.

"My husband Eric and I made a promise that we would read to JP every night so that we could instill in him a love for reading and the values that reading teaches," Rose said. She added that she agreed to become a reader for the INQUIRER Read-Along for the same reason.

Even as a young girl, Rose said she always valued reading. Her mother, Evelina, who was a teacher, showed her and her siblings that reading was educational but also fun, she said.

"When I was young I loved reading medical encyclopedias and historical books. I found them interesting and a good read," she said with a laugh. "Now, I love reading inspirational books," Rose said.

Volunteer storyteller

For Alitaptap volunteer reader Sevilla, it was her love of books that made her join Alitaptap, a group of volunteer storytellers who aim to spread the importance of reading.

"Books teach us a lot of things, especially values like discipline and patience," she said.

Sevilla was the first female ROTC cadet corps commander at the University of the Philippines in Diliman but she chose not to go on to the Philippine Military Academy to train to be a soldier. Sevilla became a teacher instead.

She topped the 2004 licensure examinations for teachers with a grade of 89.8.

A second-grade science and reading teacher at Miriam College, Sevilla said she sometimes uses storytelling as a springboard for lessons.

"The students are receptive," she said.

Sevilla read "Uuwi Na Ang Nanay Kong si Darna" (My Mother Darna is Coming Home" by Edgar Samar, a story about a child's preparations for the homecoming of her mother who works abroad, and "Si Pilong Patago-tago" (Pilo the Disappearing Artist) by Kristine Canon.

Storyteller club

The third reader, Camille, a sixth-grade student at the Ilugin Elementary School in Pasig, was the division winner of the "Big Ate, Big Kuya Storytellers Club" contest held earlier this year.

She read "Juan Tamad" by Rene O. Villanueva which tells the story of a very lazy young boy.

Digna Aquino, one of the organizers of the storytelling contest, was all praises for Camille.

"She is very intelligent and she knows how to follow instructions well. She is also very humble," Aquino said.

Camille's interpretation impressed one of the girls in the audience who was three years older than she.

"It was fun," said Cherin, 14, who attended the Read-Along session for the first time yesterday. "I really enjoyed Camille's interpretation of the story. I don't really like reading for leisure, but I think I may start now," she said.

Sponsors

The sponsors of yesterday's INQUIRER Read-Along were Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management, Hands On Manila, God's Special Children, Scholastic Inc., Krispy Krème, Digna Aquino of the Library Hub in Pasig and San Juan, and Alitaptap.

Singer-actress Karylle will be the reader at the next INQUIRER Read-Along on Dec. 1 to be held at the National Bookstore, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Interested parties may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329. Those interested in donating books to the program may e-mail inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph. ***With reports from Kate Pedroso and Eliza Victoria***

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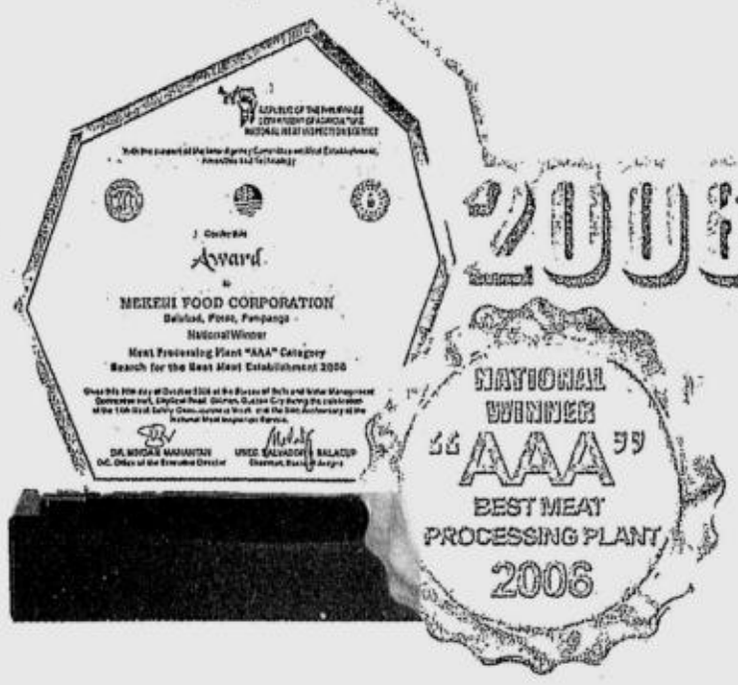

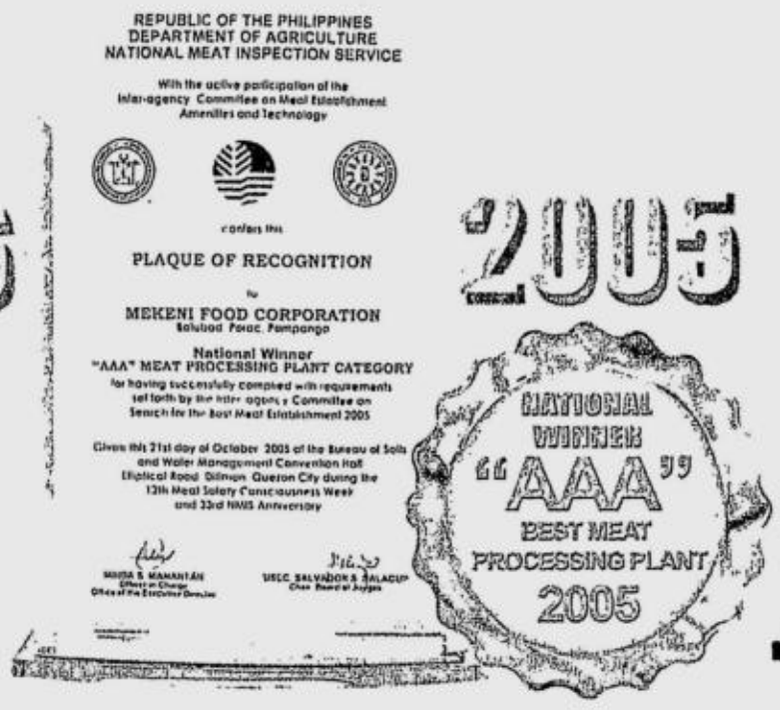
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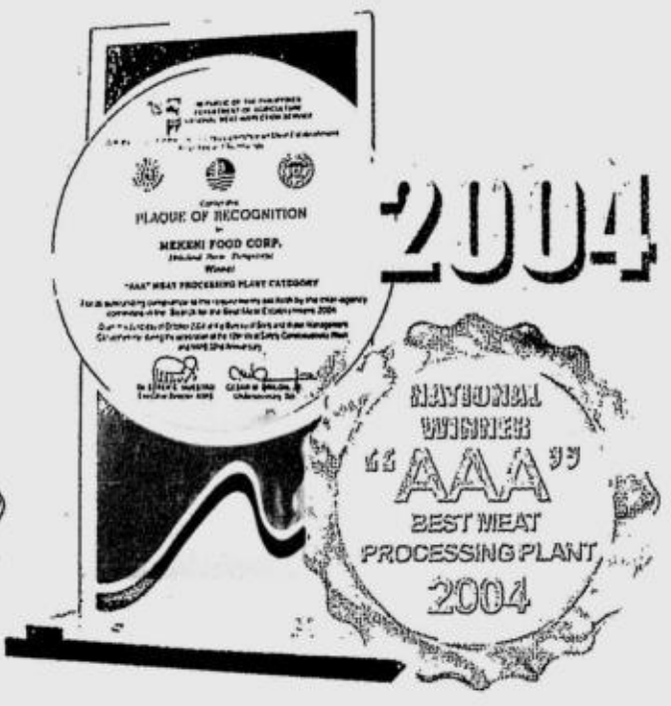
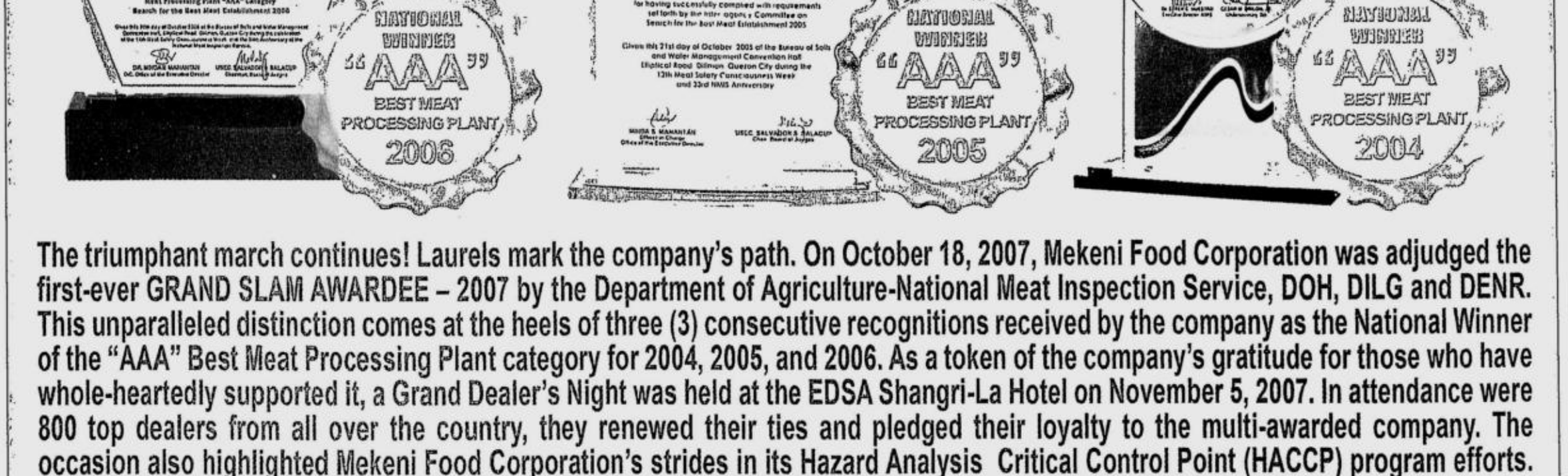
2005



The triumphant march continues! Laurels mark the company's path. On October 18, 2007, Mekeni Food Corporation was adjudged the first-ever GRAND SLAM AWARDEE – 2007 by the Department of Agriculture-National Meat Inspection Service, DOH, DILG and DENR. This unparalleled distinction comes at the heels of three (3) consecutive recognitions received by the company as the National Winner of the "AAA" Best Meat Processing Plant category for 2004, 2005, and 2006. As a token of the company's gratitude for those who have whole-heartedly supported it, a Grand Dealer's Night was held at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel on November 5, 2007. In attendance were 800 top dealers from all over the country, they renewed their ties and pledged their loyalty to the multi-awarded company. The occasion also highlighted Mekeni Food Corporation's strides in its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program efforts. The company's success in this regard complements its ISO 22000:2005 accreditation on Food Safety Management System - the first in the Philippines and Asia, and the second in the entire world! All these accolades inspire Mekeni Food Corporation to produce the safest food products at the most affordable prices!



ANMC 21
Asian Network of Major Cities 21

The Asian Network of Major Cities (ANMC) Convenes Tomorrow (Nov. 26) For Its 6th Plenary Meeting in Manila

Major Asian Cities to Meet and Discuss Global Warming, Urbanity

Metropolitan Manila plays host tomorrow (Nov.26) to the 6th Plenary Meeting of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC) that will bring to fore the pressing issues of urbanity and global warming, among other things.

Eleven member-Asian cities have confirmed attendance with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the event organizer, to attend the ANMC meeting which is expected to bring at least 60 delegates from 11 Asian countries namely Bangkok, Delhi, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Metro Manila, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon, to Manila for a two-day conference.

The annual meeting is scheduled from Nov. 26 to Nov. 27, 2007 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

For six years now, the conference has served as venue for ANMC 21's member-cities to unilaterally discuss regional issues affecting the environment, health, travel and tourism, and urban development.

MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando said the hosting of the international conference would also give Metro Manila a rare opportunity to showcase its positive attributes as well as promote the country as a favorable area for tourism, trade and investments.

"We are preparing for this important event that will provide Metro Manila the rare privilege to host 60 heads of cities from all over Asia. This early, I can see that the conference has all the earmarks of success," Fernando said.

With "Urbanity : Harmony Amidst Diversity" as its theme, the ANMC meeting is a policy dialogue on the theme, featuring presentations from Bangkok, Manila and Taipei delegates, and an ensuing discussion among all member-cities.

"The theme is very timely from a regional perspective. The Asian economy is booming. More specifically, the prospects for the ANMC 21 member-cities, including Metro Manila, are as bullish as ever. But while each city pursues its own growth, we are also seeing the rise of regionalism. Countries in Asia are coming together to drive the region's overall growth. For our part, the ANMC 21 members believe that each member-city should support each other's growth. And we intend to explore different ways of doing it through the plenary meeting," Fernando said.

Global warming is another pressing concern that the ANMC member-cities intend to address at the plenary conference because they said Asia has been preoccupied with urban development and management and has not been able to foresee the negative impact on the environment.

The discussion on global warming will consist of reports from Manila, Tokyo, Delhi, Jakarta and Seoul, to be followed by a discussion among the member-cities.

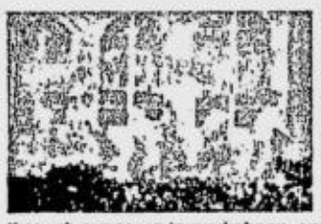
The plenary meeting will conclude with the drafting and signing of a declaration that embodies the ANMC 21 consensus on the issues tackled. The Manila declaration is expected to include directions in addressing these two primary concerns.

An exhibition featuring the member-cities at the SM Mall of Asia will run concurrently with the plenary meeting. It will be opened for public viewing on Nov. 24, 2007. The Asian Performing Arts Festival will also be held in conjunction with the ANMC 21 from Nov. 25 to Nov. 27, 2007, also at the SM Mall of Asia.

Fernando said Metro Manila's strong commitment to the ideals of ANMC 21 to foster cooperation, peace, security and stability among cities in Asia were the factors that made the Philippines clinch the hosting honors of the plenary meeting.

The ANMC 21 Cultural Events: A Showcase of the Philippines' Rich Heritage

(Featuring a Series of Live Performances Ranging From Live Music to Theater From Some of the Most Talented and Sought After Performance Groups in Metro Manila)



Teatro Marikeño is the resident company of Teatro Marikina and was formed as Community Theater on September 1, 2001. It is headed by Floriza M Antonio, Cultural Affairs Officer of Marikina City. Teatro Marikina aims to encourage artistic and practical development of members through exposure to workshops, seminars and productions, and enhance their talents by participating in activities both on and off stage. With a great commitment to, and a deep passion for their chosen craft, the members of the company are fully dedicated to their pursuit of giving voice to their dreams. They are achieving their dreams while providing the highest quality theatre performances and developing collaborative leadership skills.

Valenzuela City Center for the Performing Arts (VCCPA) was created on March 14 2006 by virtue of Executive Order No 2006-036. It is the vision of Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin T. Gatchalian to make Valenzuela City the seat of excellence in culture and the arts in CAMANAVA Area. He also believes that appreciation for culture and the arts should come hand in hand with the economic development of the city.

The **St. Dominic Savio College Dance Troupe** was organized in 2001 as St. Dominic Savio College's (SDSC) own contribution to the preservation of the country's colorful traditions and customs as reflected in dance and music. Likewise, the group serves as the institution's ambassador of goodwill to various communities, government agencies and even in other cities and provinces. Considered as one of SDSC's best assets, the dancers are the showcase of the many great things a Savian can become.

Teatro Rizalia is the renowned cultural group of Rizal Technological University. Its roots started last 1996 and its family is still growing up to the present. The group specializes in Philippine Folk dance but also performs modern and interpretative dances.

The **Q. C. Symphonic Band** formerly the Q.C. Brass Band, was organized in 1989 under the supervision of the Quezon City Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office. The band has been giving performances for special occasions and events hosted by the city government, in fiestas in different barangays, and corporate events upon the invitation of private companies, non-government corporations, civic and religious organizations. The band likewise holds concerts in shopping malls and does campus tours in the four districts of Quezon City. Last June 12, 1997, the band, under the baton of Wilfredo Cruz, won the Best Conductor and Best Band Awards in the Metro Manila Band Competition held at the Luneta Grandstand. Currently, the band is composed of 56 members - including band coordinators Wilfredo Cruz and two assistant band conductors, Larry Barcelos and Arnel Sevillano.

the **Manila Glee Club (MGC)** is a celebrated male voice choir based in Manila, established in December 2003. Starting out with only eight voices, the MGC has since transformed into a full-scale chorale group now composing of more than twenty Japanese and Filipino members. With their avant-garde techniques and unique musical style, the choir has gradually established itself as one of the premier chorale groups in the country at present. Only this February, the MGC was asked to perform in the Third Asia Japanese Male Choir Festival.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, November 25

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Welcome Cocktails at Davao Ballroom, Sofitel Philippine Plaza
Message from Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, MMDA

Monday, November 26

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Welcome Remarks by Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, Chairman, MMDA
Opening Address by Hon. Shintaro Ishihara, Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Introduction of Representatives from each ANMC 21 Member-City

10:30 am to 11:30 am
Status Report and Open Forum on the Implementation of AMNC21 Joint Projects
1. Promotion of the Development of Small to Medium size Jet Passenger Plane (Tokyo)
2. Counter-measures to Cultural Infectious Diseases in Asia (Tokyo)
3. Network for Crisis Management (Tokyo and Jakarta)
4. Welcome to Asia Campaign (Tokyo)
5. International Centre for Urban Development and Management (Kuala Lumpur)
6. Asian Performing Arts Festival (Tokyo)
7. Participation of Women in Society (Seoul)

11:30 am to 12:00 nn
Review of ANMC21 Joint Projects
1. Outline of the Review
2. Integration of Projects and Open Forum
3. Future Schedule and Open Forum

12:00 nn to 1:30 pm **Lunch**
1:30 pm to 1:50 pm
Proposals of New Joint Projects
1. Taipei 2. Manila

1:50 pm to 2:35pm
Policy Dialogue – Urbanity: Harmony Amidst Diversity
1. Introduction by Chair
2. Presentation (Bangkok, Manila and Taipei)
3. Discussion of Member Cities
4. Summary by Chair

2:35 pm to 2:55 pm **Tea Break**

2:55 pm to 4:15 pm
Special Reports – Global Warming
1. Keynote Reports (Manila and Tokyo)
2. Related Reports (Delhi, Jakarta and Seoul)
3. Discussion of Member Cities
4. Summary by Chair

4:15 pm to 4:35 pm
Determination of the City for the Next Plenary Meeting

Tuesday, November 27

10:00 am to 10:40 am
Summary of All Comments Drafting of the Declaration

10:40 am to 11:00 am **Tea Break**
11:00 am to 11:20 am
Signing Ceremony for the Manila Declaration

11:20 am to 12:00 nn
Joint Press Conference
12:00 nn to 1:30 pm **Lunch**

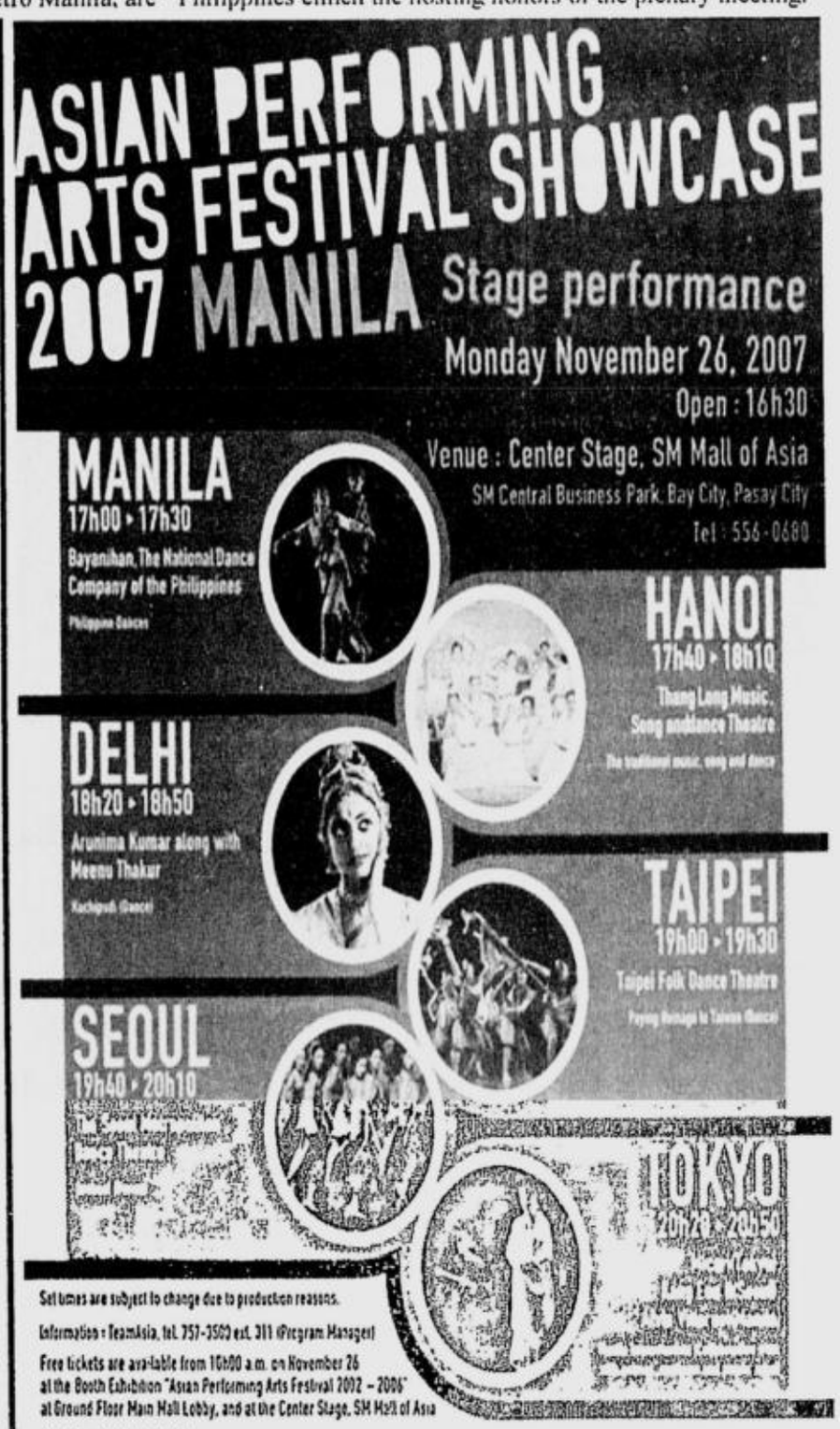
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Trip to the ANMC 21 Exhibition Venue (Main Exhibit Area,Mall of Asia)

2:00 p.m to 3:00 pm
Viewing of the ANMC 21 Exhibition

7:00 pm to 9:pm
Farewell Dinner at Davao Ballroom, Sofitel
Closing Message from Hon. Bayani F. Fernando, Chairman Metro Manila Development Authority

Wednesday, November 28

9:00 am to 12:00 nn
Study Tour at Cemrez Plant, Libis, Quezon City


ASIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL SHOWCASE
2007 MANILA
Stage performance
Monday November 26, 2007
Open : 16h30
Venue : Center Stage, SM Mall of Asia
SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City
tel : 556-0680
MANILA
17h00 - 17h30
Bayanihan, The National Dance Company of the Philippines
Philippine Dances
HANOI
17h40 - 18h10
Thang Long Music, Song and dance Theatre
DELHI
18h20 - 18h50
Arunima Kumar along with Meenu Thakur
Kuchipudi Dance
TAIPEI
19h00 - 19h30
Taipei Folk Dance Theatre
SEOUL
19h40 - 20h10
TOKYO
Set times are subject to change due to production reasons.
Information : Teamasia, tel. 757-3500 ext. 311 (Program Manager)
Free tickets are available from 10h00 a.m. on November 26 at the Booth Exhibition "Asian Performing Arts Festival 2002 – 2006" at Ground Floor Main Mall Lobby, and at the Center Stage, SM Mall of Asia
Asian Network of Major Cities 21

Centerstage Cultural Events

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City

Time	Performers
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Metro Tokyo ("Satokagura") Japanese Shinto Music and Dancing
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Marikina City (Teatro Marikeño) Dance
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Mandaluyong City (Teatro Rizalia) (1) Rondalla (2) Dance
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Quezon City (Symphonic Band)
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Metro Tokyo (The Glee Club of Japanese Associations in Manila)

Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City

Time	Performers
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Metro Tokyo ("La Mer") Female Choir of Japanese Associations in Manila
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Metro Tokyo ("Sato-kagura") Japanese Shinto Music and Dancing
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Valenzuela City (Center for Performing Arts) (1) Violin Ensemble (2) Play
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Taipei (Fold Dance Theater) Dance
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Caloocan City (Saint Dominic Savio College Dance Troupe)

FREE ADMISSION

Storms can't stop Bukidnon farmers' march on Malacañang

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TYphoons have failed to stop 50 farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon, from keeping up their march to Manila in protest of the loss of their land. They hope to reach Malacañang in two weeks.

Filipinas Palma of Balaod (Law) Mindanaw, a group supporting the farmers on their "Walk for Sumilao Land, Walk for Justice," said the marchers decided press on despite the heavy rains the past week, first from Typhoon "Lando" and now "Mina."

"As long as the winds are not very strong, they will continue," Palma said by phone.

Palma, who is with the protesters, said they left Barangay Tabugon, Sta. Elena town, for Gumaca town in Quezon, a distance of 52 kilometers, at around 4 a.m. Friday.

"Based on the march's original schedule, this stretch would take two days to negotiate," Palma said.

The march, which started in Barangay San Vicente in Sumilao on Oct. 10, aims to dramatize the farmers' 10-year struggle to reclaim 144 hectares of land awarded to them by the government in 1995.

Malacañang voided the title granted to the farmers and returned the land to the Quisumbing family, which said it would be used for agri-industrial purposes and thus should be exempt from the agrarian reform program.

So far, the farmers have logged around 1,200 kilometers.

Many of the marchers are sick due to exhaustion and the weather, Palma said.

"The physical toll is affecting the stamina of some individuals," Palma said. "But this has not diminished their determination to push on to Malacañang."

The march is expected to end on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

While in Manila, the marchers hope to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss their plight.

Lando and Mina had brought rains to the Bicol region since last week and Palma said the marchers adjusted their pace to avoid getting caught by the strong winds on the road.

She said the farmers were making do with their tattered raincoats.

"How many storms should they brave in order to attain justice?" she said.

Atienza: Let folks share in mine wealth

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE ONLY WAY TO erase the antimining sentiments of the people is to make them happy and this could be done by letting them share in the mining wealth of their communities now that the country has a robust mining industry, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said on Friday.

Speaking at the close of the 54th annual mine safety and environment conference here, Atienza said Malacañang supported a House measure that would allow local governments to retain a share of the taxes paid by mining firms.

The proposal would compel mining companies to pay their taxes in the towns that host their operations, and not in Makati City where most of the firms have their head offices.

Atienza said that even without the measure, he could compel the mining companies to pay their taxes to the local governments to prove to their citizens that doing business with mines is profitable for them.

He said the 1991 Local Government Code grants local governments this privilege, and vowed "to go to jail," if he is challenged.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is also addressing royalty disputes that have cropped up between old mining firms, American families that owned old patents to lands, and the indigenous residents of mine sites that now want a share of the profits.

The Ibaloi community has been urging some Benguet mines to review their patents now that the indigenous peoples' right to their ancestral lands has been strengthened by the Constitution and the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

The most controversial royalty dispute to reach the DENR is that between Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. and the heirs of American John Gaffney. Government arbiters granted the Gaffneys' claim to P850 million in royalties but the firm is contesting the decision due to questions surrounding the claims.

Atienza told mining executives he was instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to promote mining when she appointed him environment secretary.

"The future of our economy will definitely have a good use for the mining industry, and the President's vision has a key part for the industry. *Kailangan natin gawin ang tama* (We need to do what is right)," he said.

The conference highlighted the revitalization of mines that had either slowed their operations or shut them down completely because of the past slump in the world metals trade.

Getting local government backing will be crucial to cleansing the industry's public image, Atienza said.

"We will get the support of the local government units once they share in the benefits of mining. This is clear in the Constitution and in the Local Government Code. The share of local governments must be released automatically to them without benefit of additional legislation," he said.

OFWs, other workers getting short shrift, says watchdog

By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT MUST IMPLEMENT an effective social protection mechanism for overseas Filipino workers and for the growing number of workers in the informal economy who belong to the most vulnerable household groups, an international watchdog said yesterday.

Social Watch, a Uruguay-based coalition of nongovernment organizations that monitors international commitments on poverty eradication and equality, said OFWs and informal workers contribute much to the Philippine economy but enjoy few benefits.

"Remittances by the OFWs serve as social insurance for their families, shielding them from environmental risks but, ironically, they do not get the needed social protection while working abroad and when they eventually come back," said professor Leonor Magtolis Briones, co-convenor of Social Watch Philippines at a recent press conference in Quezon City.

Social Watch released its global report several days ago, to coincide with the conclusion of the National Consultation on Financing for Development that was attended by civil society groups and discussed the status of the country's programs to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The report on the Philippines, which reviewed the social mechanisms in the country, said government programs hardly addressed the needs of the most vulnerable household groups among the poor, including the growing number of workers in the informal economic sector.

Briones said OFWs get some form of insurance coverage from the expanded PhilHealth program and their voluntary enrollment in the Social Security System.

Assistance from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), however, which is primarily expected by OFWs and their families, "has been too little and too selective, leaving most OFWs virtually unprotected."

Healing on Boracay

THE HEALING PRIEST, FR. CORSIE Legaspi, is scheduled to celebrate a healing Mass on Boracay island on Dec. 4.

The Mass is being arranged by Legaspi's Pinagpalang Kamay Healing Ministry in cooperation with the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Barangay Balabag, Boracay.

Donations for the Mass are to benefit the healing ministry, as well as the renovation of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church and the construction of the parochial school in the barangay.

Legaspi recently arrived from healing tours in the United States and Thailand. He has celebrated Masses from Aparri to Zamboanga in the Philippines, and in Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Saipan.

Also a sought-after retreat master and lecturer, Legaspi conducts monthly retreats for terminally ill patients and others at the Coming Home Retreat Center for the Sick in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

He has lectured at many universities and colleges on healing and values education.

Legaspi's first healing Mass on Boracay is being made possible by 357 Boracay, Silka Seair, Jollibee and Yakult.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 25, 2007
Christ the King

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

They anointed David king of Israel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your bone and flesh. In the past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led Israel. And Yahweh said to you, 'You shall be the shepherd of my people Israel and you shall be commander over Israel.'" Before Yahweh, King David made an agreement with the elders of Israel who came to him at Hebron, and they anointed him king of Israel.

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

The head of the body, the church.

Constantly give thanks to the Father who has empowered us to receive our share in the inheritance of the saints in his kingdom of light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. In him we are redeemed and forgiven.

He is the image of the unseen God,
and for all creation he is the firstborn,
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible:
thrones, rulers, authorities, powers…
All was made through him and for him.
He is before all
and all things hold together in him.
And he is the head of the body, that is the Church,
for he is the first, the first raised from the dead
that he may be the first in everything,
for God was pleased to let fullness dwell in him.
Through him God willed
to reconcile all things to himself,
and through him, through his blood shed on the cross,
God establishes peace,
on earth as in heaven.

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The people stood by watching. As for the rulers, they jeered at him, saying to one another, "Let the man who saved others now save himself, for he is the Messiah, the chosen one of God!"

The soldiers also mocked him and when they drew near to offer him bitter wine, they said, "So you are the king of the Jews? Free yourself!" For above him was an inscription which read, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him, "So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly, you will be with me today in paradise."

Commentary

This is the last Sunday of the year of the Lord 2007. Time for us to look back at the year and its history of faithfulness or lack of it. We are to look at it in light of forever and hand it over to God as we hand over our lives as sacrifice/gift. Our King, our God, is a shepherd who gathers and holds us together in the face of what happens in the world. And our king is the image of the invisible God who has made us saints who live in the light. All things, in heaven, on earth, and in the past, are under his power and command. Our king is the one who reconciles and makes whole again, makes holy. Our king is the crucified one, who would not kill, or lie, or live dishonestly in collusion with the powers of the world: political, nationalistic, economic, or religious. He is a king who only loves God and all that God has created. And God's kingdom, or better called "kin-dom" is shared with those who need it the most, those who are rejects of the kingdoms of the world, and those who recognize and accept the forgiveness and reconciling power of God in Jesus. This is the reality of history, of the universe, of daily and personal life no matter what those who rule in the world might say. Today we look at this year and see if it truly was the year of the Lord 2007 and if we have much to give back to our king crucified or do we need to cry out for the mercy of God and pray: "Lord, remember me when you come into your glory and your reign."

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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (36 units)
03-07 December 2007
VENUE: U.P. Law Center, Bocobo Hall, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City

DATE	TOPIC/SUBJECT	CREDIT HRS/TIME	LECTURER
03	Information Technology Updates: Creative Commons and Its Legal Implications (MCLE Prescribed)	9:00-12:15 (3 hours)	Atty. Noel Ramiscal
	Legal Writing for the Contemporary Lawyer (Legal Writing)	1:00-3:00 (2 hours)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Legal Research: Computer Methods of Legal Research (Legal Writing)	3:15-5:15 (2 hours)	Prof. Marvic MVF. Leonen (tentative)
04	International Commercial Arbitration (ADR)	8:00-11:15 (3 hours)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	Legal Ethics: Lawyers In Conflict with the Law (Legal Ethics)	12:15-3:15 (3 hours)	Atty. Katrina Legarda
	Recent Procedural Developments in Family Law (Procedural Law)	3:30-6:30 (3 hours)	DCA Zenaida N. Elepaño
05	Current Problems on Taxation (Substantive Law)	8:30-11:45 (3 hours)	Atty. Victoriano Mamalateo
	Defensive Lawyering: Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	1:00-4:15 (3 hours)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
06	Navigating the Murky Waters of JPEPA (International Law)	8:00-10:00 (2 hours)	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	The Art of Dirct and Cross Examination (Trial Skills)	10:15-12:15 (2 hours)	Atty. Jose Manuel I. Diokno
	Modes of Discovery (Trial Skills)	1:15-3:15 (2 hours)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
07	Another Arrow in the Quiver: Utilizing the Writ of Amparo (MCLE Prescribed)	8:00-11:15 (3 hours)	Justice Vicente V. Mendoza
	ADR Skills for Lawyers (ADR)	12:15-2:15 (2 hours)	Prof. Rowena E.V. Daroy Morales
	Intellectual Property Law (Substantive Law)	2:30-5:30 (3 hours)	Prof. Vicente E. Amador

- REGISTRATION FEE: P7,000.00/package; P750.00/session (morning or afternoon) inclusive of meals, MLCE Certificates of Attendance, and lecture materials. NO REFUND.
- For details, please call: (telefax) 929-71-37 or 920-55-14 local 209 and 229
- Schedules/lecturers are subject to change without prior notice.
- ONLY FIRST 100 PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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Dep. Dec. 22
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Dep. Dec. 23
1N GUANGZHOU/1N MACAU/1N HONGKONG $339
Dep. Dec. 23
1N HONGKONG/2N SHENZHEN $179
Dep. Dec. 23
2N HONGKONG/1N MACAU $359
Dep. Dec. 23
2N HONGKONG $199 $229
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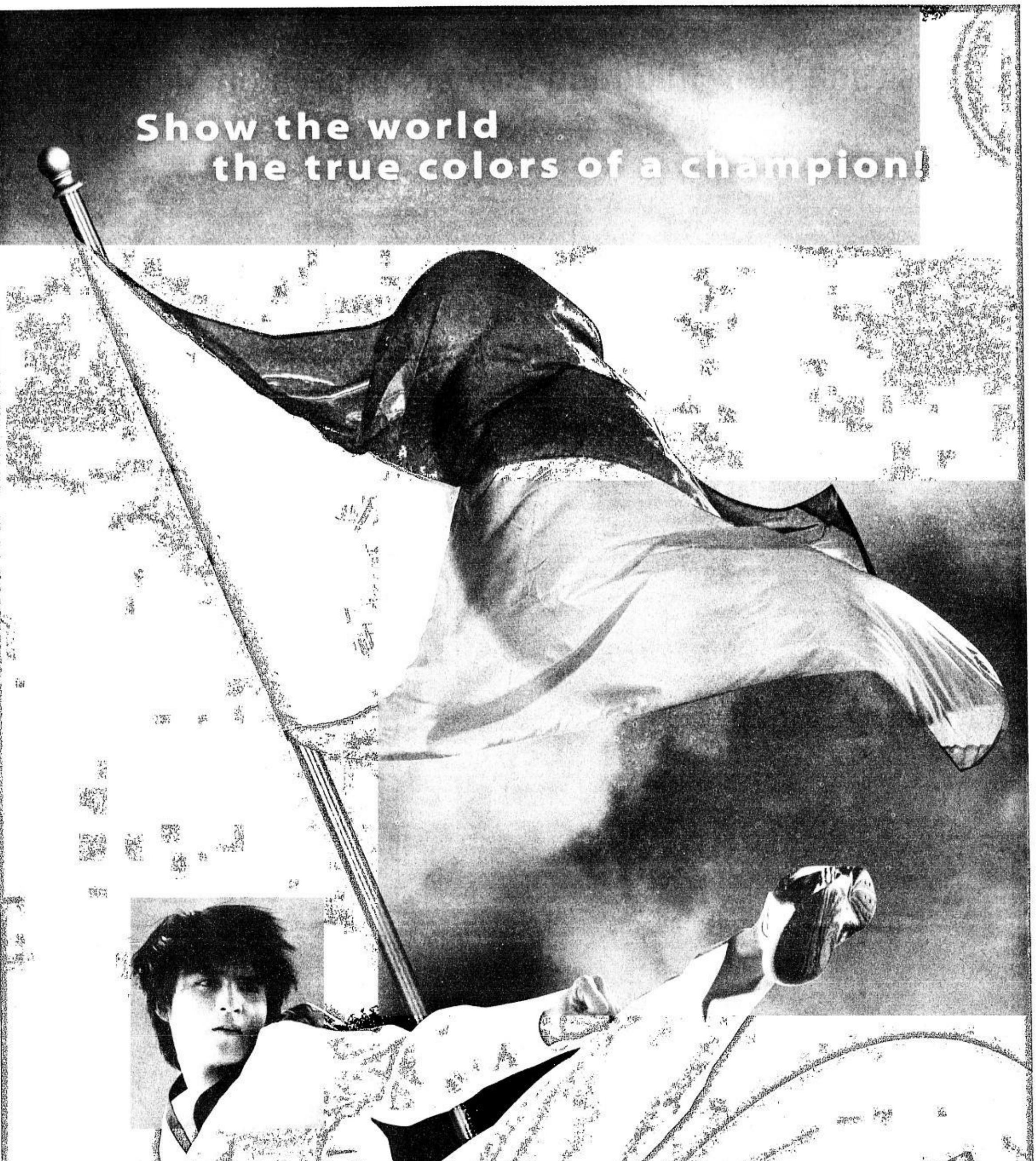

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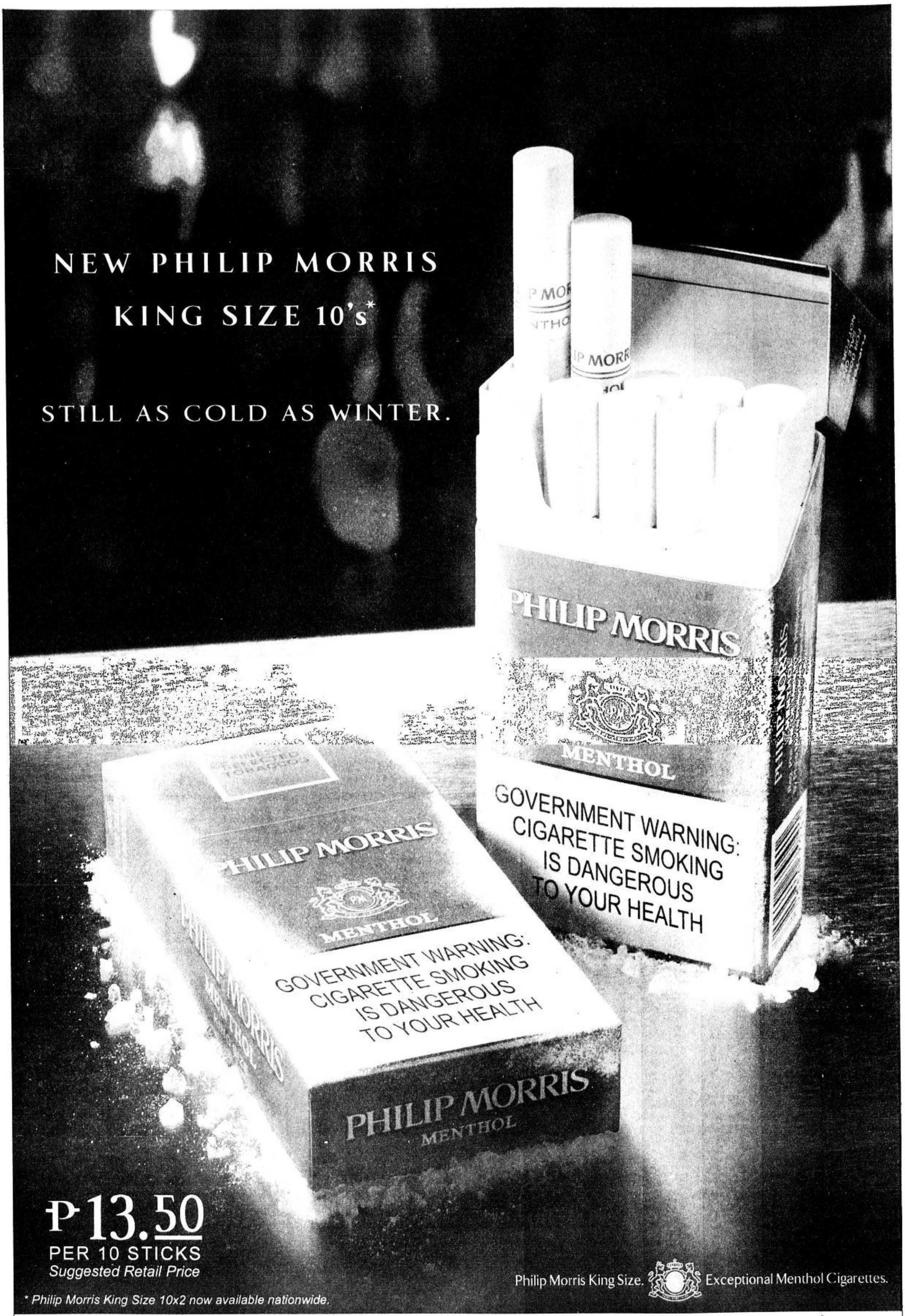

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Force the issue

EDITORIAL

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE SENATE? AT THE RATE sundry officials are perceived to be snubbing its more controversial hearings, the question seems almost quaint, as though the upper chamber were a mere irrelevancy. This is unfortunate, because the Senate's independence has traditionally been a strong line of defense against an overaggressive Executive. And because, as the blue ribbon committee hearings on "juetenggate" in 2000 prove for all time, the exercise of its constitutional power to investigate can change history.

Much of the blame for the sorry state of affairs must be laid at the door of the Executive, with its barely concealed disdain for the independent but ineffectual cities of the Senate and for the accommodating, easily bought suburbs of the House of Representatives.

But the Senate has itself to blame too, for the irredeemably partisan nature of some of its hearings and, above all, for its tentativeness in defending its institutional honor.

Nobody wants to be invited to a beheading. All too often, the Senate abuses its power to investigate in aid of legislation. We do not mean merely the uncomfortable spectacle of personal abuse, when unsympathetic senators cast politically motivated aspersions on resource persons they have themselves invited. (To be sure, this practice, where prosecutors morph into judges, undermines public confidence in the Senate as a whole.) We also mean senators using the hearings not to raise questions but to seed the ground with their own answers.

Most recently, for example, Sen. Panfilo Lacson used the second hearing on the alleged Palace bribery to connect the disbursement of cash gifts in Malacañang to an influential businessman with political connections. That is, he tried to, but when the witnesses, including the governor of Bulacan, could not oblige him, he went right out and did the connecting himself. He had inside information, he said, from sources in the Department of Budget and Management.

That "disclosure" landed him in the headlines, something that would not have happened if he had said so outside the hearing. But that, of course, was precisely the point. He used the hearing (carried on radio and cable television, naturally) to "make his case," with the witnesses who dared to make it to the Senate as unwitting props. That he promptly unmade his case the very next day, by saying that the businessman whose name he coyly insinuated into the public record may have been more victim than suspect, only illustrates the nature of the stunt he pulled.

Unfortunately for the Senate, more and more people see through this, and do not want to be party to a lynching.

The Senate must call the Executive's bluff. The case of Secretary Romulo Neri has dragged on long enough, but after telegraphing its resolve to cite the former economic planning secretary for contempt if necessary, the Senate lost its nerve. Now it has merely requested Neri to explain why a citation for contempt shouldn't be dropped on his head.

We realize this step is merely procedural, and would strengthen the Senate's hand in case the controversy reaches the Supreme Court. But the chamber's inordinate caution, urged at the instance of senators like Joker Arroyo, is itself the problem.

We do not understand why the Senate must wait for a high court decision before advancing its own understanding of the landmark ruling on Executive Order 464. Let it cite an erring Executive official for contempt, and then wait for that official, if he is so minded, to file for relief with the Supreme Court. In other words, the burden of running to the courts lies with the Executive. To everyone except the lawyers who counsel Malacañang, the parameters laid down by the EO 464 ruling are clear. We wouldn't know it from its tentativeness, but that clarity favors the Senate.

As to the argument that possibly precipitate action might cost the Senate a legal victory, we can only say: Why, what does it cost the Senate now, to hold hearing after hearing, and receive one lame excuse after another from officials of the Executive? It's time to force the issue.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

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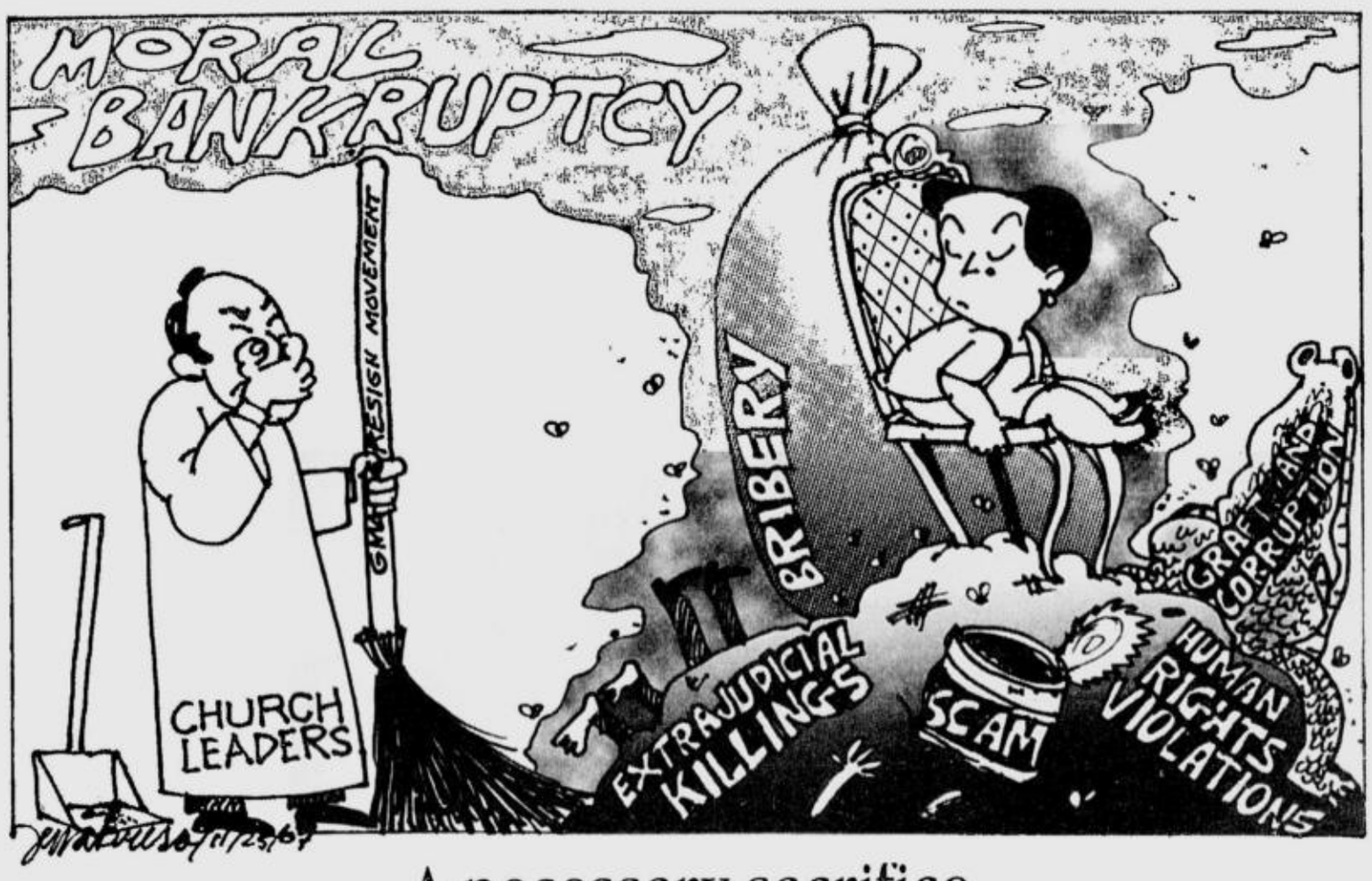

A necessary sacrifice

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SAVE ONLY FOR THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION government that was imposed upon us not by our own countrymen but by a foreign invader, the most oppressive regime established in the Philippines after the Revolution of 1896 was the Marcos despotism that bled the nation white with the avarice of its rulers.

Next only to that evil period is the present administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that has deliberately foisted upon us a calamity envenomed by unprecedented and insolent corruption that we have tolerantly chosen not to prevent, rectify or penalize.

The first Philippine Republic had little experience in actual government because of the American invasion. The administration of the governor-generals was on the whole honest and hopefully exemplary. During the Commonwealth era and in the early years of the present Republic, rumors of corruption were merely whispered and comparatively minor.

After the Marcos rapine, succeeding administrations under Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and even the disreputable Joseph Estrada, the complaints against governmental venality were not as indignant and demanding as they are now.

In our tattered history, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has become the most unpopular Chief Executive, barring all other former tenants of the Palace of the People. The major issue against her is the crookedness of her administration.

When Estrada was ousted by direct action of Edsa 2, there was a widespread feeling of relief and a sense of confidence in Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as his constitutional replacement. Although her public record then was not eminently encouraging, she was at least reputedly honest, let alone her impressive academic credentials.

The first suspicions about her credibility began when she promised in 2003 that she would not run for the presidency, which she was then occupying without a direct grant from the electorate. She blandly violated that vow in the last presidential election, claiming she was just responding to what she called the public demand. That excuse was hardly audible, or believable.

Her conduct during the campaign was far from presidential. She sang and danced like Nora Aunor whom many said she resembled. She donned the costumes of the indigenous tribes and ate with her fingers like the rural people to show that she was one of them. She was unlike Sergio Osmeña Sr. who did not leave his work in Malacañang to campaign in 1946 or Manuel L. Quezon who symbolically planted rice for the photographers but wisely wore "botas" instead of wading with his bare feet in the muddy farmlands. She was more like present-day politicians in their cheap courtship of the masses.

After her supposed victory, irate reports of poll malefactions cast a shadow on her title as the now elected President of the Philippines. The Garci tapes surfaced to reveal secret conversations that suggested the doctoring of election returns in her favor. As her voice was identifiable, she admitted her "lapse in judgment": but denied there was any scheme to falsify the election. She then dismissed the inconclusive investigations in Congress and asked the people to forget the tapes so "we can move on," as she put it. That is now her familiar refrain.

There were other reported anomalies that raised doubts about her election. Money and various goodies flowed liberally from the party in power allegedly from government sources. Still unexplained is the disposition of the P728-million fertilizer fund alleged to have been used to buy votes for her. Equally serious is the suspected role of the administration in the escape of Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who was in charge of the fund, to prevent him from making damaging revelations before the Senate blue ribbon committee.

On top of all the many irregularities suspected to directly involve President Arroyo herself and her husband was the malodorous ZTE contract from which hundreds of millions of pesos are said to have been shared *sub rosa* by favored government officials. And there is also the admitted distribution of substantial amounts of crisp cash as gifts or assistance or bribes to selected national and local officials. She has denied any hand in this financial orgy that took place in Malacañang itself, in her own official residence.

The contagion defiling all levels of our government, beginning from the Office of the President down to the lowly barangay, remains unchecked and continues to putrefy like an incurable malignancy. Even the World Bank is investigating our loan applications because of reported frauds in our government operations. We are looked down in the international community as a nation of weaklings who have no backbone to resist the sordid leadership preying upon us like an unavoidable wraith.

The scandals tarnishing Ms Arroyo's administration are more than enough to convince her that she is honor-bound to resign and leave the running of the government to leaders who enjoy the people's confidence in their competence and integrity. She may yet redeem her name in history by making this necessary sacrifice for the salvation of our contaminated country.

The King and I

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHERE in the Bible does it say that a man should have only one wife, some wise guy responded: "No man can serve two masters."

* * *

Today is the solemnity of Christ the King. Who is your master? Who is your king? In today's Gospel (Lk. 23, 35-43), one of the criminals crucified with Jesus acknowledges Him as King, while the other scorns Him. Is the life you are living right now an acknowledgment, or is it an insult to Christ's kingship?

* * *

It is interesting to note that during the crucifixion, two groups of people were mentioned by the Gospel to have sneered and jeered at Him: the rulers and the soldiers. Aren't these the very same ones who continue to sneer at Christ and His people in the here and now? You who have the power, you who have the arms, you who have the money, stop crucifying Jesus over and over again.

* * *

It is also interesting to note that during the crucifixion, "the people stood by and watched." It is sad that a lot of us seem not to care anymore about social issues, as long as we are "safe" and comfortable. And so we just stand by and watch. Disgusting. Pathetic. Sad.

* * *

Somewhere along the way, you and I must take a stand: either we are for Christ or against Christ. Insofar as we do good, we help perpetuate Christ's kingdom. Insofar as we do bad, we help perpetuate the reign of Satan. Are you an agent of Christ, or an agent of the evil one?

* * *

How will it be when you and I will face Christ the King someday? Will we face Him in shame knowing that we have abandoned and deserted Him? Or will we face Him in humility and gratitude knowing that somehow we have done our best for Him? On that day, may we all be able to say in all humility: "Lord, you know everything. You know me, you know I am a sinner, and you know I tried my best to love and serve you, my Lord and my King." But to be able to say that then, we must truly try to love and serve Him now.

* * *

As we come to the last Sunday in our liturgical year, perhaps it would be good to reflect on a text message I received about the "four blessed looks": LOOK BACK and thank God; LOOK FORWARD and trust God; LOOK AROUND and serve God; LOOK WITHIN and find God.

* * *

"All I ask of you is forever to remember me Lord, as loving you." Deep in the heart of each one of us must be a conscious and constant desire and effort to really love God. All our earthly loves which seem so big and significant now will fade away and must be integrated into God's all embracing, long and lasting love. Remember, in the end, you and I will go back to Him. May He remember us as someone who somehow tried to obey, serve and love Him in our lifetime.

* * *

I have been at the deathbed of many rich, powerful and famous people; and many times I saw regret, written all over their faces, that in their pursuit of worldly pleasures, they forgot their King, and that in their greed for worldly treasures, they hurt their less fortunate brothers and sisters. At the doorstep of eternity, may we not have too many regrets that we loved too little, too late. Let us take time to ask ourselves today and take a good look at our lives, our activities, our concerns and ask ourselves: "What for? Whom for?"

* * *

Of the four seasons, I like autumn best. Maybe, it's the colors of autumn, the serenity and the melancholy; or maybe, it's just that I'm already in the autumn of my life. Whatever. Autumn is the time when one has endured the noonday sun, and one can rest, look back and just be, and just say, "What is done is done. I did the best I can." Autumn is the time for surrendering, which is the best preparation for the not-so-far-behind winter.

* * *

God indeed is a God of love, and a God of surprises. I was in Korea last week with some Filipino pilgrims who kept asking whether it would snow. I spent four winters in Korea, and I know snow comes only by mid-December, but pray we did for snow. Guess what? On our last night in Seoul, it snowed to the delight of our group, shouting like little children, frolicking in the snow. The next day was back to autumn weather again. *Talagang pinagbigyan lang kami*. Yes, the Lord, through Mama Mary's intercession, just gave in to our simple childlike wishes and desires. Yes, God truly listens and answers every prayer.

* * *

If you feel you have the calling to become a missionary, come and join the search-in on Dec. 2, 9 a.m. at Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City. For more information, call or text the SVD Vocation Director 726-5002 or 09209191009.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that I have an important and an inevitable date with you, my Lord and King. Amen.

Suppressing Neri's testimony

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETary Romulo L. Neri snubbed the Senate hearing held last week on the controversial $329-million national broadband network (NBN) project. In lieu of his personal appearance, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita sent a letter to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, justifying Neri's absence on a nebulous claim of executive privilege.

Let the Court decide. Earlier, Neri boldly testified before the Committee that resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos offered him a bribe of P200 million. "Sec, *may 200 ka rito*," Abalos allegedly whispered to him. When questioned on President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement, he clammed up, asserting executive privilege.

"Bring the case to the Supreme Court," sneered Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol. By daring the Senate to sue, Apostol probably calculated that the risk of a Supreme Court defeat would be less damaging to GMA than a media feast on Neri's expectedly damning revelations.

What chance of victory does Malacañang have in the Supreme Court? To answer that question, there is a need to review the requirements for the proper invocation of executive privilege, per the decisions of the Court, especially the latest one, "Senate vs Ermita," (April 20, 2006) ably written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales. I will discuss the parameters born of Philippine jurisprudence, and no longer the United States cases that Dean Raul C. Pangalangan already deftly analyzed in his last column.

Congressional right to information. First, Congress—in aid of legislation—has a constitutional **right** to obtain information from the Executive Branch. On the other hand, executive officials—especially Cabinet members—have the corollary **duty** to provide the legislature with information to enable it to perform its law-making function wisely. Hence, the congressional power of inquiry is as extensive as the power to legislate. Legislative investigations must always be conducted in accordance with duly published rules of procedure, and respect the constitutional rights of witnesses or resource persons.

Second, the President may withhold information that falls under any of these three categories: (1) state secrets "of such nature that (their) disclosure would subvert crucial military or diplomatic objectives"; (2) informer's privilege, or "the identity of persons who furnish information on violations of law to officers charged with the enforcement of that law"; and (3) "generic privilege for internal deliberations ... by which governmental decisions and policies are formulated," for example, discussions during closed door Cabinet meetings.

Public interest is paramount. Third, disclosure is the rule and secrecy is the exception. It is not enough that the claim for exemption falls among the aforesaid categories; it must be assessed "in the context it is made"—that is, it must demonstrate the superiority of the public interest that would be served by the grant of the privilege.

Fourth, "in light of the highly exceptional nature of the privilege," only the President of the Philippines may personally avail of it. "She may of course authorize the Executive Secretary to invoke the privilege on her behalf, in which case the Executive Secretary must state that the authority is 'By order of the President' which means that he personally consulted with her."

Fifth, executive privilege refers to categories of information, not of officials. The privilege can extend to anyone who knows the secret information. Thus, the testimony of a waiter who served snacks and heard secrets during a closed-door Cabinet meeting may be given the privilege.

Sixth, the legislative invitation or subpoena should indicate the general nature of the inquiry, the possible questions to be asked and the proposed legislation. Similarly, an exemption request, signed by the President or the executive secretary as above described, must state the facts and the reasons why the desired information should be restricted. The justification should contain sufficient details to enable Congress to decide prudently whether to grant the request for secrecy. In case of dispute, the Supreme Court shall judge the validity of the claim.

On the basis of these parameters, it is quite clear that the Palace has not justified its bravado for secrecy. It has not explained what superior public interest would be served by the suppression of Neri's testimony. Neither has it gone through the process required for the invocation of the privilege.

Palace strategy. I am confident that, if this claim of secrecy in the NBN scandal reaches its dockets, the Supreme Court will decide it promptly and prudently as it did "Senate vs Ermita." Sad to say, however, that despite the speed and wisdom by which that earlier case had been ruled upon, the legislative inquiries that ignited it: (1) "the so-called fertilizer scam" involving Joc-Joc Bolante; (2) "the NorthRail investigation"; (3) the "Hello Garci" fiasco; and (4) "the Venable contract" remain in limbo, still awaiting definitive Senate action.

To avoid messy problems, it seems the Palace strategy is simply to muddle issues, delay their resolution, divert public attention to new scandals, and tiptoe from crisis to crisis; never mind the erosion of public confidence, never mind public opinion, and damn the public treasury.

So far, the strategy has worked. There has been no sufficient public outrage. Not enough anyway to rattle and shoo away GMA. *Kawawa naman tayong mga Pinoy!*

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

'Loy Krathong' in Thailand

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THAIS CELEBRATED YESTERDAY "LOY KRAthong," the Festival of Lights, during which Thais head off for rivers, canals, lakes or any body of water to lay down floating disks filled with candles and flowers supposedly to let all the bad luck of the past year float away, to be replaced by good fortune.

Our group of Filipino journalists had the "bad luck" of arriving in Bangkok about a week early for "Loy Krathong," but we, too had a chance to observe the feast, thanks to our friends from the Siam Cement Group, under whose auspices we had visited their country.

On arrival in Bangkok, we hurriedly dropped off our bags at the Pathumwan Princess which strategically has a corridor leading out of the hotel direct to MBK, a six-story shopping center known for its dizzying array of goods and very competitive prices, for just one-and-half-hour's worth of frantic shopping. Then we were bused to River City, where we were to board a river boat for a dinner cruise and some entertainment.

Later that evening, fortified by a Thai buffet and dazzling traditional Thai dances, our hosts introduced "Loy Krathong" to us, instructing us that we were to light the candle and sparklers, set into the disk of banana stalks and surrounded by flowers, after which a boat hand would scoop our lit "krathongs" and lower them into the waters of the Chao Phraya River.

I'm told that during "Loy (meaning, to float) Krathong," the Chao Phraya makes for a lovely sight, as thousands of candles float downriver, carrying the wishes, prayers and vows of contrition of the people. After I watched my own personal "krathong" float away, a fellow journalist teasingly asked what else was there I had to wish for. "I wished that I would see my grandchildren soon," I informed him, though given my children's states of the heart, "soon" might take longer than I wish!

* * *

EVERYWHERE we went, there were unmistakable signs of Thailand's booming tourism industry, long the envy of its neighbors. Philippine tourism authorities are rightly proud of the country's breaking the one million mark as far as tourism arrivals go. But that's still quite a distance from Thailand's annual 12 million tourists, many of them from the United States and Europe, though we also spotted a number of Chinese and even Russians.

Those of us who were visiting Thailand for the first time wanted to know what was Thailand's "secret." After all, it is, like the Philippines, warm and muggy, if not raining, for much of the year. Bangkok is still seized by horrific traffic jams at all times of the day. And when it's raining, the streets likewise fill up with water. But the tourists keep arriving—even if Thais have to struggle with their English. At the year-old Suvarnabhumi Airport, the information boards were lit up by announcements of arrivals and departures of hundreds of flights from all parts of the world. Clearly, Thailand's open skies policy is paying off.

Well, for one thing, Thais seem to have the tourism "game" all figured out. While there are tourist police who take special care to prevent petty crimes, there's little to worry about as Bangkok boasts a very low 3 percent street crime rate. And even as we boast of Filipino "hospitality," the Thais have their own unique gentleness and good humor to see them through.

* * *

A PRIME example of Thailand's careful planning, not just to lure tourists but to keep them entertained, was the evening we spent at "Siam Niramit," or "Magical Siam."

"Siam Niramit" is a stage presentation that brings the audience back to the ancient kingdoms of Siam (which became Thailand only after the War), and thence to the realm of myth and folk festivals. This it does through the magic of special effects (flying Buddhist "angels," a river onstage, a live elephant and even goats) and the energetic performances of a cast of 150 actors, dancers, musicians and even a comedian or two.

Before the show, guests are treated to a buffet dinner and then to a showcase of traditional Thai life, though on the evening we were there, the rains prevented us from visiting the live tableaus.

As if the two-hour show wasn't enough, as we exited the theater, we found costumed dancers and acrobats, elephants and other animal life, ready for photo ops. Even if one has just a day to spend in Bangkok, a visit to "Siam Niramit" is enough of an introduction to this amazing country.

* * *

OF COURSE, no account of a visit to Thailand would be complete without mentioning the food.

On our first dinner aboard the riverboat, the buffet featured traditional Thai dishes; and Aemrudee, who is with SCG's corporate affairs group, insisted we all try the fish cakes wrapped in banana leaves. Later, during dessert, an SCG official urged us all to try the ice cream made from young coconut, so light and refreshing a treat after the spicy fare!

The next day, over lunch at the SCG Guest House, under the benevolent eye of King Rama VI, founder of SCG, we were treated to a Chinese lauriat that featured, among other treats, Peking Duck and noodle soup that came in bowls, each with its own mini-burner. During lunch at the Wangsala Complex outside the city the next day, Aemrudee proudly presented us with *durian*, which, she said, is not in season and so was rather expensive at this time of the year. We took it with sticky rice and coconut cream, a most delicious, calorific dessert!

For our final dinner, our guide brought us to the top of the tallest building in Thailand, the Baiyoke Tower, opened in 1998, with a restaurant (on the 78th floor) that offers a fantastic Asian Buffet. After dinner, we took a "secret" ride on the service elevator to the 84th floor to an open-air revolving deck that affords one the best views of Bangkok at night.

Ignoring the storm

WORLD VIEW

Michel Rocard

THE MOST RECENT G7 FINANCE MINISTERS' meeting in October was an utter failure. The only thing that they agreed on was to admonish China to revalue its currency. The yuan's value, while important, is not the central question facing the world economy today. The real immediate problem concerns what is happening and what will happen to the dollar. But the real issue for prosperity concerns the foundations of the global financial system.

How low will the dollar go? How can we undo the imbalances of economies—China, followed far behind by Europe—exporting massively to the United States or to the dollar zone? Will the US mortgage market, which is expected to become even more difficult in 2008, subside into calm afterwards, or will it contaminate the whole international financial system? Is there a risk that rising oil prices—already reaching all-time highs—will cause further debt defaults worldwide? The spate of earning reports from America's biggest banks suggests that there are real worries here.

The condition of the world economy nowadays is very strange. There are no great shocks but various declines and crises. Central bankers try to soothe and reassure, but they are not very convincing. Governments are silent, acting more or less as if nothing important is happening. And, according to many economists, commentators and journalists, today's worries are temporary, solvable difficulties. There is no general crisis on the horizon.

I disagree. I believe that we have entered a period of weakening across the different parts of the global economic system, and that this may lead to a global recession. This weakening calls for a strong international public response, including tighter regulation, if we are to avoid such a crisis.

Why does the world economy look so flimsy? First, the way capitalism operates nowadays has changed mightily from just 30 years ago. In developed countries from 1945 to 1975, capitalism brought rapid growth, an average of 5 percent per year for long periods. Of course, it was subject to ups and downs, but it was not subject to financial crises of the type that we see regularly today. Moreover, capitalism in the post-World War II decades maintained full employment, with unemployment often hovering around 2 percent in Europe, North America and Japan. Job insecurity back then was mostly unknown and mass poverty had disappeared.

The keys to that period of growth and happiness were a strong social welfare system and mainly Keynesian domestic and foreign economic policies in all the world's big states. Above all, every developed economy pursued policies designed to provide high wages, which would guarantee high consumption and thus rapid growth. Shareholders used to put up with relatively meager dividends compared to today.

Thirty years on, shareholders have broken definitively with this system. Pension, investment and hedge funds have taken the lead in this revolution. In all developed economies, profits have leaped spectacularly in the past 25 years, by between 8 percent and 10 percent of GDP. But wages and social security revenues have suffered an equivalent cut.

As a result, growth has weak underpinnings. Everywhere, labor is becoming insecure and mass poverty has reappeared in developed countries. As economic deregulation increased, financial crises began erupting: since 1990, there have been three distinct crises in Latin America, one each in Russia and Asia, the Internet bubble and now the sub-prime crisis.

Second, over the past six to seven years, strong GDP growth in the United States and the United Kingdom has been offset by staggering debt. The United States now borrows $2 billion a day, 95 percent of it from Asia and 45 percent from China's central bank. America's total debt exceeds $39 trillion, or roughly 3.5 times the US GDP.

This situation will remain manageable only if oil prices stop increasing. And yet, the opposite is more likely, with domestic inflation—a danger aggravated by central banks' loosening of money supply to help commercial banks—bringing the threat of higher interest rates.

Finally, while assets nowadays are much more liquid, this fact has not boosted long-term productive investment. Instead, the profitable carving up of healthy companies has freed up capital to flow to intangible assets, houses and other forms of real estate, fueling a speculative crisis. In short, the global economy—replete with get-rich-quick schemes, overpaid bosses and corporate fraud—has lost its moral bearings.

We cannot let those dangerous trends continue unchecked. We are obviously sailing toward the rocks, and the whole developed world should be concerned. There is an urgent need for a global conference—a Bretton Woods II—to adopt strict rules to contain today's wayward financial markets. Unfortunately, as the most recent G7 meeting showed, the world's major governments are not yet ready to act. ***Project Syndicate***

Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

Dogeaters

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL, BORN IN THE Philippines, raised in America, during the time when a Dictator and his Iron Butterfly ruled the 7,000 islands that formed the pearl of the orient. It was a time of chaos and fear, but it was a grand time: of *kalamansi* juice in cans, of a people called "dogeaters" who danced while a nation fell to ruins, of millionaires and beauty queens and rebels whose hearts beat and burn for fair maidens.

Most stories, the ones that have heroes and heroines and end with happily ever after, begin one way, and only one. And so let's begin with that, with a once upon a time. Once upon a time there was a girl, and her name was Rio. Or maybe that's wrong, and this is the way it should be—Once upon a time, there was a girl, and her name was Jessica.

The book "Dogeaters" was written by Filipino-American Jessica Hagedorn and brought pride to many Filipinos as one of the first Filipino novels to be nominated for the American National Book Award. The New York Times call it "a fast, frequently hair-raising first novel, full of images and fantasies ... that maps the ruin at the heart of Filipino society in the last four decades." Entertainment Weekly claims that "no nonfiction book is likely to capture the cultural psychosis of the Philippines nearly as well as this exceptional novel about growing up there." It deserves, according to the Orlando Sentinel, "undivided attention," and is what the San Jose Mercury News calls "the best novel available about the vibrant, bewildering Philippines."

The book tells the story of Rio, a young writer who comes home to her estranged father in 1982 to witness her grandmother's funeral, and is assaulted by a Philippines straight out of a clown's methane-induced nightmare. It is both very easy and very difficult to summarize the story, perhaps because it's not a story, in the traditional sense, simply scenes and dialogues tied up and interspersed with radio excerpts, live shows and fishnet stockings.

The play version of "Dogeaters," produced by Atlantis productions, was finally premiered in Manila for the first time last week in Makati's RCBC theater. There are over 40 characters—the 16 actors playing at least two roles. Running for three weekends, the play, as with the book, flips from skit to skit, tied together by a pair of talk show hosts, "the ever-lovely and everlasting" Nestor Norales and Barbara Villanueva. Nestor, a veritable Johnny Litton, is played by a glib Leo Rialp, slick from the tiniest strand of his brown toupee to the tips of his shiny shoes. To Nestor, and the frozen-faced, perpetually grinning Barbara—perfectly played by Ana Abad Santos—all the world is a stage, and every event a fodder for ratings.

The strength of their performances makes the Rio as-narrator character seem all the more irrelevant, although one of the actors claim it is a necessary role, as Rio is Jessica's alter ego. Rio's scenes are strong only in as much as the characters she is playing against. It is a weakness that is evident in most of the play, not just with Rio—played by Teresa Herrera—but also with characters who are swamped by the presence of other players. Jenny Jamora, who takes on the role of a beauty queen pregnant by her NPA lover, is competent at times, but it is during parts of her performance that the audience cringes—some even break out in muffled giggles. Raped, tortured and left in the middle of a miscarriage, she cries out in agony, then looks down at herself and in the middle of cursing, screams, "I'm hemorrhaging." Then in the end, after she takes to the hills, she looks far away and says, "My love...for my country...burns...in me." Or something to that effect. It is one of the few times that the play skirts into cliché and doesn't pull it off.

Jon Santos, who plays, among other roles, an acerbic drag queen who locks up toilet paper in her bar because "I can't help it if Filipinos steal!" is nothing short of brilliant. His character, Perlita Alacran, leaps off the stage, both literally and figuratively. He—or she—is everyone's mother, taking lost youngsters under her sequined wings, slapping her charges with a blue-and-white fan while handing them bowls of cheese curls. The only other character who can share a stage with Perlita—without sinking into the shadows—is Andoy Ranay, who plays both Perlita's equally gay gossipy best friend Chiquiting, who is also Imelda's hairdresser and plays Imelda Marcos herself in two interviews with the fawning Barbara Villanueva. Ranay, regal in a peacock blue, crystal-studded *terno*, is exactly as Hagedorn described Madame in the book: "Totally without guile and meaning every word the second she utters it." Asked about the recent winner of the Miss Philippines pageant, Andoy-as-Imelda smiles and nods, and says that it is good that finally, a real Filipina beauty has been recognized. The Filipinos, she says, have always admired one kind of beauty. "White skin, pointy nose, tall...like me." And then a small laugh, a shrug, and a demure smile to the audience.

Michael de Mesa plays both Rio's father and Chuchi Alacran—Manila's richest man, owner of TruCola and known as the King of Coconuts, "richer even than the President." De Mesa's portrayal of Rio's father is not particularly memorable, but as Alacran, striding across an imaginary golf course or forcing a porn star between his legs, he is the image of impunity and arrogance, charming and ruthless, a man who believes that the trouble with Filipinos is that "they take everything personally."

There are many more notable performances: Joel Torre as the activist Senator Avila and the depraved pimp known only as Uncle—who knew he has such great legs? Chari Arescopachaga as Rio's cousin Pucha and as the hopeful virgin Trini. Lao Rodriguez as Romeo Rosales, the waiter with movie star dreams. Jerald Napoles as the rebel Santos and movie star Tito. Che Ramos as seductive porn star Lolita Luna. But perhaps one of the most powerful performances comes from someone whose stage time must be the least among the players. Gina Alajar, who plays wife to the corrupt General Ledesma (played to the hilt by Rez Cortez) shoots the play into the stratosphere with a performance that crawls into the skin and rips into the imagination.

There is no doubt that the acting was incredible. Directed by Bobby Garcia, "Dogeaters" is a psychedelic dance into the Filipino culture, all wild color and rough sex and the raging passions simmering just under the skin. That was the story of the Filipino, once upon a time. But we've seen it all before, the skits and stories are in the everyday news, on the pages of society magazines and leftist publications, not from 25 years ago, but yesterday, 10 minutes ago, now.

As Rio says, "Everything is so different, but nothing has changed."

* * *

For comments e-mail rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

SELLERS AND BUYERS

Language and power relations

POWER RELATIONS ARE PRESENT WHEN AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE MEET, ACCORDING TO JUAN Luis Conde, a Spanish philologist. The relationship may be between a parent and a child, a man and a woman, or an employer and an employee. It can be among friends or members of a group.

Conde says language mediates between power and subordination. Power, he says, is an imbalance, which can be obvious as in a master-slave relationship, or subtle when the subordinate is unaware of his or her position of disadvantage.

In the relationship, one of the parties imposes on the other party a particular interpretation of the world and uses it to his or her advantage.

Conde looks into this kind of relationship between employers and employees, doctors and patients, and sellers and buyers in a paper on "Power and Power Relations."

For lack of space, "Talk of the Town" is featuring only the relationship between sellers and buyers—how sellers use advertising to make certain brands espouse a viewpoint, and tell buyers what is right and wrong and what is desirable and undesirable. In short, advertising that thinks for the consumer so that he or she will buy the product.

By Juan Luis Conde

AS THE ENGLISH PHILOSOpher J. L. Austin reminds us, we use words not only to make true or false judgements, but also to make things.

Through greetings, insults, counsel, promises, threats, seduction, professions of love, declarations of war, and a thousand things more, with and through words we make and unmake relationships.

The spoken language is a basic instrument to build linkages; the very fabric of interpersonal life whether these are sentimental, industrial, or generational.

I have increasingly been devoting my time to observe and to study a certain aspect of this relationship: How language mediates between power and subordination.

It would be a grave error to think that this is confined to the "political" realm alone—one that extends itself only throughout the state-citizens continuum. It is also true for relationships between and among parent and child, spouses, employer and employee, children and friends.

All maintain a power relationship of some sort. Indeed, conjugal relationships are not alien to this. Power relationships are present wherever two or more human beings are gathered.

Imbalance

Power is an imbalance, which may be brutal and manifest (a master-slave one is very similar to that between the shepherd and the flock) or subtle and latent in which the subordinate is unaware of his position of disadvantage. This is the case of one who is a subject to the dominant norm of a language as Piere Bourdieu has described. A form of complicity which is neither passive submissiveness to external coercion nor free adherence to values.

Recently, my attention has been drawn to a phenomenon which characterizes our current modern societies. The advent of democracies has come hand in hand with an attempt to change the perception of power relations and to substitute, whenever and wherever possible, overt and abrasive versions of these with one that is covert and subtle.

To this effect, the analysis of the use of language is a vantage point, since one of the essential aspects of the imbalance is that in which one of the parties unilaterally claims for itself the right to impose on the other a particular representation or interpretation of the world and, given the chance, to use it to his or her advantage.

The dyads I have selected are quite close to me and to you—relationships between physicians and patients, employers and employees, and sellers and buyers.

Advertising that thinks for you

Have you ever wondered why Coke ads were once punctuated with the statement "Send a love message to a stranger ... Coca Cola"

Where did that come from? Why would Coca Cola tell us a thing like that? Does falling in love make you thirsty? What do drinks and sending messages to strangers have in common?

No matter how many ways you approach this, the only answer you will arrive at is, Nothing! The only explanation to this and similar ads may be found in the so-called communication ladder, which analyses the messages of each brand. The communication ladder may be compared with Jacob's Ladder as it moves from the concrete to the abstract, from the tangible to the intangible, from the mundane to the heavenly.

The first step of the ladder is occupied by the "name." Here we may find the unknown brands aspiring to earn market awareness. At the second echelons we find the "utility" or "benefit" that the brand provides together as well as the "tribe," the market segment it is addressed to.

The latter is the most sought after by the more fashionable brands. And thus we also advance intellectually upward in the communication tone, until we make it to the top.

At second to the topmost level, we find the "role." What is the brand's role in a person's life? This is on some occasions significantly skewed.

This level is best exemplified by the products of the tobacco industry. Their "value" is not clear at all and they have to cling to the rather obscure value of taste.

At the top of the communication ladder is the "social value" associated with the brand. Yes, some brands represent a social value, whatever that may mean.

As you must have concluded, the better-established brands may be found in the higher echelons of the ladder, while those less known or of a less glorious past have to settle for the lower levels.

Tempting world

Obviously, the communication trajectory of Coca Cola is among the more influential ones in the world. Sufficient to say that Santa Claus is dressed in red today due to the omnipresent beverage. Thus, Coke is no longer satisfied with selling a taste, or the ability to quench thirst. It is an invitation to a more tempting world, the boundless world of imagination, surprise and adventure. This converts the brand into the entity in charge of interpreting the world for us, making us the weak end of a typical power relationship.

Because we can't ignore these instructions from Big Brother that permeate our minds through powerful means of dissemination, it is not difficult to remember the messages of other brands, which have also reached the social-value level of the communication ladder.

Another example is Nike. Its slogan "Just do it" is presented worldwide in a global English that needs no translation. It is assumed that it is simple enough to be understood by all. Neither the end-user nor the seller would settle for less. But like in the case of an increasing number of titles of Hollywood productions or job titles, ad lines are being translated less and less.

English adds prestige

Thus, it is not only the product that is being advertised, but also the very language used to advertise. The English language adds prestige to the product endorsed and its endorsement in English adds to the value of the English language.

This is the case of awardees being honored by the awards they receive and the awards being honored by the awardees who receive them in what would appear to be an endless feedback cycle of mutual reinforcement.

In this subtly induced fashion, rather than English being "accessible" to all, it becomes "imperative" to all. The same may be said of the type of morality being promoted by the advertisement.

Does "Just do it" speak about sports apparel, shoes or of the stars who endorse Nike products? Most definitely not. The line evokes the kind of instructions that personal coaches repeat to the amateur sportsman they are training and who is not fully convinced of his own potential. The coaches and trainers use that very same line to induce the client to do it.

While Nike's natural sphere of influence is in sports, the ad line goes far beyond it. It is a battle cry to go beyond your known limits. "You can do it if you've got what it takes. If there is a will, there is a way."

In this, like in similar cases, the language used by advertisers becomes the public address system of certain ideologies. It does not require much imagination to connect "Just do it" with the American dream—the land of opportunity where everything is possible if you just try hard enough. That is the ideology that is being sold together with the pair of rubber shoes. Before you know it, it has taken control of you.

But come on! Let's be serious. Will "Just do it" make a rural Congolese win a medal in the next Winter Olympics or allow a blind person to drive a Formula 1 car?

'Impossible is nothing'

Nike has met its match in Adidas in the advertising world when the latter claims "Impossible is nothing." The message is in essence the same as that of Nike. It can also be encapsulated in "if there's a will, there's a way." It is only a matter of degree. The only difference resides in the tone of the voice in which the lines are read.

There is no longer a proximate and encouraging voice of a coach. Instead, it is conveyed by a timeless and wisdom-rich tone of voice. Obviously, to proclaim that everything is possible is false. Of course there are impossible things. Yet, if drummed consistently by advertising outlets, the truthfulness of the message, if there is such an expression, is bound to increase.

The message actually transfers the burden of responsibility to the listener, to the audience. If you don't ski or do not drive an F1 it is because you either did not dream enough or tried enough to make it a reality. If you have not succeeded, if you are a failure, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Step by step, a social ideology sets in. A social ideology, a cosmovision from the point of view of the winner. This is not true for Nike and Adidas alone. There are others pushing in the same direction. Not too many years back, a campaign for watchmaker Tag Heuer proclaimed that "Success is a mind game." The accompanying images showed sportsmen in extreme situations such as a swimmer competing with sharks right beside him.

'You can if you want'

The powerful combination of images and text could once again deliver the message "You can if you want." A significant difference between this and the ad of Nike lies in the fact that unlike the latter, Tag Heuer is not producing a competition-related product. Thus, the ideological component is far more gratuitous. After all, we are only talking about a watch, an object that does not supply any competitive advantage to a swimmer, an equestrian or a runner whose images were used in the campaign.

It would appear as if Tag Heuer could extract overperformance at the track and implant it in the streets or wherever you go with your watch. And it is basically in the workplace where you carry the sports metaphor; in the world of winners where you need the proper mental concentration and disposition to achieve the success that the advertisements promise.

Once again, we are facing an ideology with myth-faith trimmings that when repeated sufficiently enough, is on its way to becoming a dogmatic truth. In any case, as Pierre Bourdieu has said, it is difficult to speak of "free adherence" to social values such as these.

Therefore, we have brands that have particular viewpoints, that share their views regarding matters way beyond their natural domain, that tell us what is right and what is wrong, desirable or not. Thus, aside from the "accidental semantists" ever willing to churn out a word or two to ensure that power-relationships go unnoticed or made-up, we have a steady supply of "accidental moralists," who are more influential than any catechism ever written.

Imposing moral templates

Their mandate—in the words of Victor Klemperer—is to promote, endorse and impose certain moral templates by which we are to abide in the same manner that the propaganda machinery of the Third Reich supplied the container and the content to "think for us."

When we buy a brand we are, to a certain extent, buying into a specific world vision. We do not only tacitly and casually accept it; we actually pay for it, with a premium.

Whenever we purchase a pair of shoes that entices us to "Just do it" instead of a brand that merely offers "Better technology at your feet"—and as such is situated in the initial "benefit" level of the communication ladder—we ought to ask ourselves, benefit for whom?

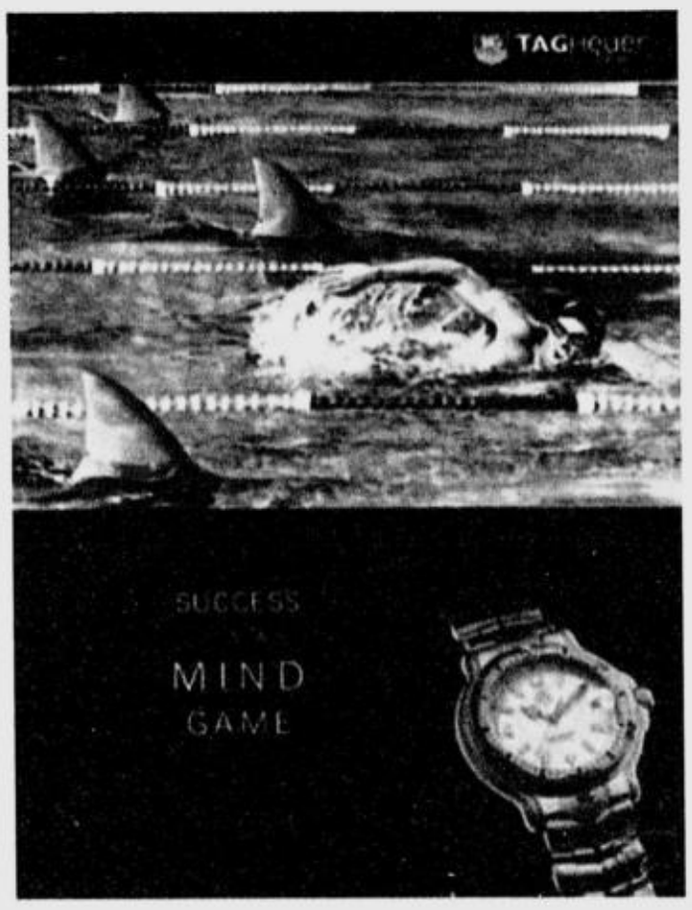
When I recently purchased sports apparel for my teenage son we walked into a shop presided over by larger-than-life cardboard images of Ronaldinho, Shaquille O'Neil and Fernando Alonso. I couldn't help but notice that the brand name and the logo of the trunks, shoes and shorts my son bought were the very same ones endorsed by the stars.

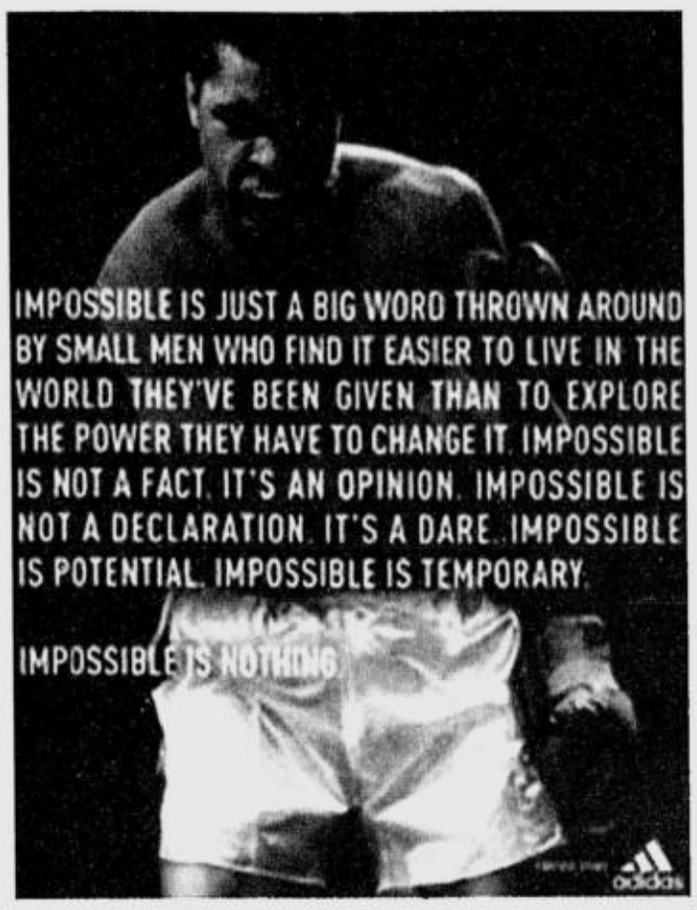
It dawned on me that the world is divided into two. On the one side, we have those who are paid to advertise, and on the other those, who like you and me, pay for the advertisements.

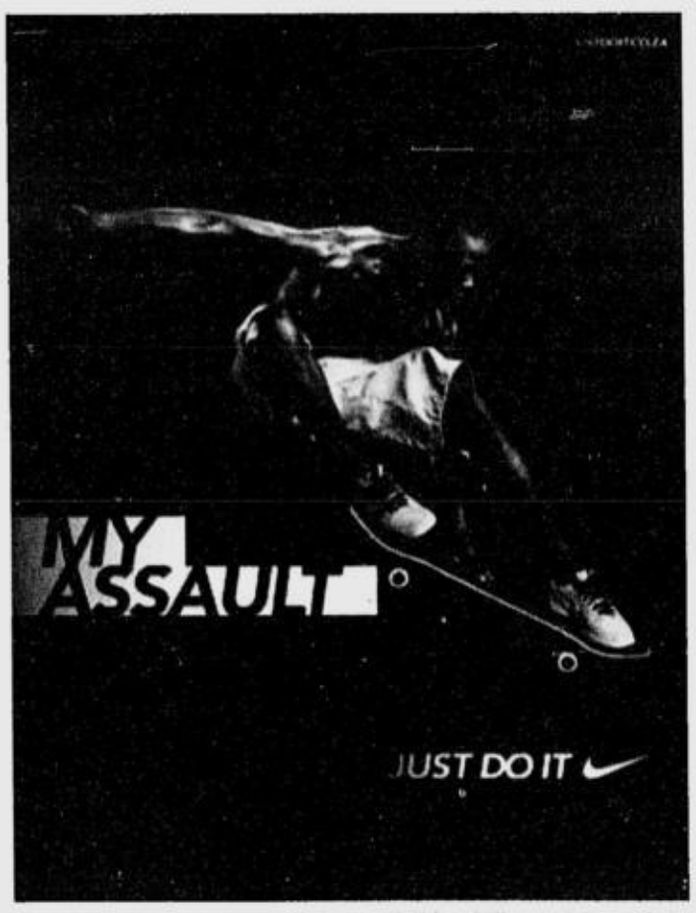
If I may paraphrase the Italian aphorism *traduttore traditore*, we may say that nowadays it is vendor victor.

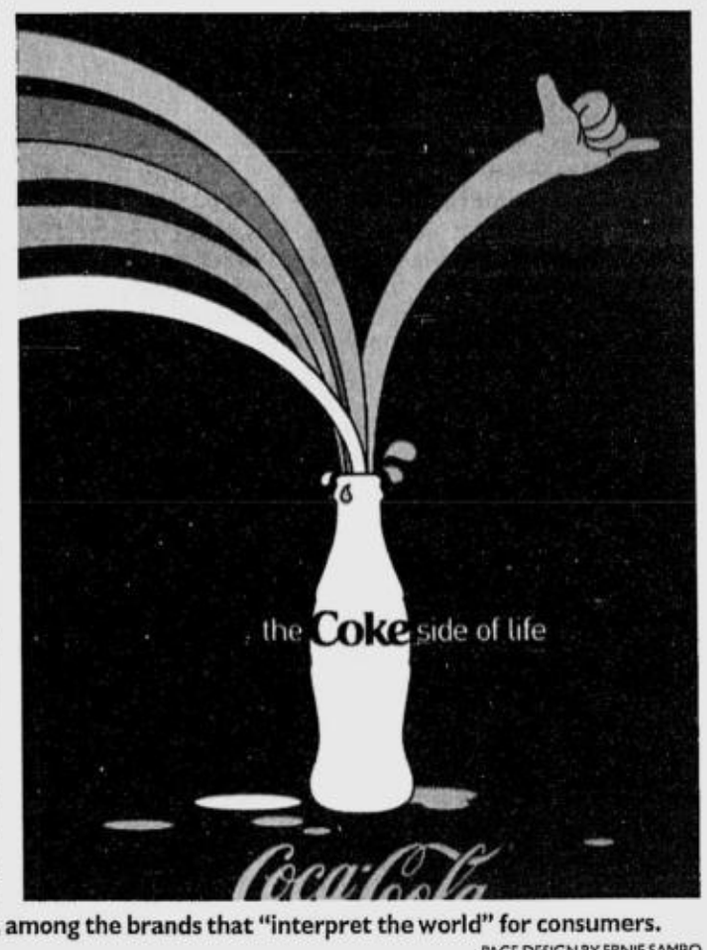
Translation by Chaco Molina

(Juan Luis Conde is a doctor of philosophy in Classical Philology and a professor of Latin at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He delivered a lecture on "Power and Power Relations" at the Instituto Cervantes in Manila on Sept. 17. He talked with INQUIRER editors on the same topic the next day.)




IMPOSSIBLE IS JUST A BIG WORD THROWN AROUND BY SMALL MEN WHO FIND IT EASIER TO LIVE IN THE WORLD THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN THAN TO EXPLORE THE POWER THEY HAVE TO CHANGE IT. IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A FACT. IT'S AN OPINION. IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A DECLARATION. IT'S A DARE. IMPOSSIBLE IS POTENTIAL. IMPOSSIBLE IS TEMPORARY.
IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING





ADVERTISEMENTS of Tag Heuer, Adidas, Nike and Coca Cola, among the brands that "interpret the world" for consumers.

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Ateneo graduates 1st batch of MDs with MBAs in 5 yrs

From page A1

not just focus on sick people but on a sick society as well and he would like doctors to address this "disconnection."

Mismatch

In the Philippines there is a mismatch of doctors and society and there must be a way to "cure the mismatch," he said.

"The matter of doctoring happens within a system. But the bureaucrats that are attending to the problems are not doctors and the doctors are not bureaucrats," he said. And that's where the mismatch lies.

Bengzon realized this when he served as health secretary during the Aquino administration.

"Doctors in the provinces were looked upon as leaders and so they stumbled through the job," he said.

They were expected to be managers in the public health delivery system, nongovernment organizations or private institutions but their background and training dealt with how to treat the illnesses of individuals. Not many had training in public health.

The Ateneo, founded in 1859, is one of the oldest Jesuit schools of higher learning in Asia. Its most distinguished alumnus is national hero Jose Rizal who graduated in 1877 and went on to become a medical doctor.

It has three units of higher education: the Loyola Schools in Quezon City (Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science and Engineering and the J. Gokongwei School of Management); the Professional Schools in Makati (Graduate Schools of Business and Government and the Law School); and now the ASMPH (beside the Medical City hospital) in Pasig.

Inaugurated last Friday, the ASMPH is within the Don Eugenio Lopez Sr. Medical Complex on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig. The new Medical City, a tertiary hospital, serves as a partner to the ASMPH.

Doctor of the future

In its prospectus, the ASMPH said it aims "to mold the physician of the future: one who is an outstanding clinician, a dynamic manager and a social catalyst." It wants to form not just doctors but doctors who can be leaders and agents of change for systemic and structural changes in the health sector.

So it is not enough that ASMPH students learn the basics of medicine and curative care, "the students must also be taught to understand health systems from the perspective or organizations, populations and society," said Associate Dean Dr. Marife Yap, a veteran development worker.

ASMPH integrates the study of management principles with an understanding of the social determinants that affect public health.

It defines the Ateneo doctor as the "doctor of the future" although that future may just be around the bend.

The doctor as healer must be an outstanding clinician with mastery of clinical skills and a heart full of compassion.

The doctor must be a dynamic manager who can bring systems and resources together to enable clinicians to practice their craft.

The doctor must be a social catalyst, a competent leader who can help solve the systemic problems of ill health and poverty and make quality healthcare available and working for all.

Each student has mentor

"We want them to serve, to lead. They will undergo leadership formation. Each student has a mentor," said Yap.

Most of the ASMPH's first batch of 75 students are graduates of the Ateneo (51), many of them armed with an undergraduate degree in health sciences.

"These are very bright kids," said Yap, adding that several already started medical school in other universities but decided to transfer to the ASMPH. Several are on scholarship.

Tailor-made for export

Bengzon, an Atenean who finished medicine at the University of the Philippines, recalls speaking at his alma mater and saying that UP had become a staging area for doctors "tailor-made to be exported abroad."

"We do not expect all our graduates to end up in the rural areas or serving the poorest," said Bengzon.

That is not the ultimate goal but it would not be surprising if they turn up that way. But wherever they choose to go, the Ateneo doctors should be among the best in their field—as clinicians, managers and catalysts.

Hello? GMA calls Ifugao gov, gets wrong number

From page A1

of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at Camp Aguinaldo, President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to call Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. to get an update on his preparations for disaster management after the weather bureau predicted Typhoon "Mina" would hit Ifugao and other provinces in Luzon.

When a staff member dialed Baguilat's number on the President's high-tech speakerphone, a woman answered.

"Governor Ted?" the President asked.

The woman on the other line replied "Hello?" a few times.

When Ms Arroyo asked for Baguilat, the woman finally said, "Wrong number" and hung up.

Comic relief

This elicited a good laugh from the President and the other officials at the meeting.

Malacañang staff scrambled to get the correct phone number. Reporters overheard a female staffer insisting that she had given the right number but the male staffer who dialed the speakerphone must have entered the wrong digits.

Afterward, the male staffer refused to dial the governor's number because he was afraid to make another mistake.

Coming to the rescue was NDCC spokesperson Anthony Golez who used his own cell phone to call Baguilat.

When Golez had the Ifugao governor on the line, he handed his phone to the President.

Baguilat was able to apprise the President of his province's preparations for the coming storm.

Worried staff

Later, reporters spotted the male staffer looking concerned about the boo-boo. He even asked Malacañang cameramen if the "wrong number" episode was caught on video tape.

After the meeting, the President stayed behind and chatted with some of the officials over coffee and chiffon cake. She was overheard making jokes about the incident.

As she was leaving, Ms Arroyo wished the officials "good luck" on their preparations for the typhoon.

A Must for Parents & Teachers

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED invites you to its

10th Annual Convention-Workshop

"Teaching the Game of High Achievement"

Plenary Speaker

Dr. Maureen Neihart

Clinical Child Psychologist

Co-editor, "The Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Children: What Do We Know?"

Maureen Neihart
Co-editor of the book

Maureen Neihart, Psy.D. is a licensed clinical child psychologist with more than twenty-five years of experience in counseling high-ability children. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Gifted in the U.S. Presently, Dr. Neihart serves on the editorial boards of the Gifted Child Quarterly, Roeper Review, and Journal of Secondary Gifted Education.

Keynote speaker: Sen. Edgardo Angara

November 28, 2007, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sapphire A & B, Crowne Plaza
Galleria Manila
Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City

Promil Pre-School

	Early Registration	On-site
Non-member	Php 1,600	Php 1,800
Member	1,400	1,600
Students	(special rate)	

Fee includes convention kit, lunch and snacks.

Payments accepted thru BPI with Savings Acct. 4983-0008-57
Acct. Name – Philippine Association for the Gifted

For inquiries, contact 687-1122 / 0927-5979103, e-mail pagifted@yahoo.com or visit www.freewebs.com/pagconvention.2007

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"NATIONAL WEEK FOR THE GIFTED" TURNS 8

Unlike first world countries, the Philippines is not equipped with enough facilities and resources to support gifted children. Many gifted children do not develop to their fullest potential because of the lack in training, education and assistance. But there is hope. Thanks to the National Week for the Gifted, gifted children are now recognized as a special community with special needs.

In 1999, former President Joseph Estrada proclaimed the fourth week of November as the "National Week for the Gifted and Talented." The Philippine government finally recognized the growing concern of addressing the special needs of gifted and talented children.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other related agencies were entrusted with the responsibility of providing gifted children with programs and services that effectively harness their gifts. The most notable agency that heeded this call is the Philippine Association for the Gifted (PAG). Its group of experts and supporters have been actively facilitating projects and providing assistance to gifted children and their families. PAG's parent support group also serves as a pillar for parents who need help and guidance in raising their gifted children.

As the National Week for the Gifted goes on its eighth year, gifted children can look forward to a series of activities and programs designed to suit their exceptional needs. But supporting gifted children shouldn't be limited to the annual, week-long celebration. Nor should it be limited to the government or families of gifted children alone.

PAG is calling on all individuals to support projects that help develop and cultivate potential in gifted children. Parents of gifted children should nurture their children's talents and capabilities. School educators and local authorities are tasked to promote and foster activities contributing to their enrichment. Even charitable institutions and agencies are encouraged to support the gifted community, so that the children could get access to special schools and facilities.

When we uphold gifted children, we aren't just supporting their families. We are supporting our entire country. After all, these gifted children will one day bring pride to our country with awards and recognitions garnered locally and internationally. These children will one day become our best doctors, teachers, athletes, artists, lawyers, musicians, and professionals.

Promil Pre-School, together with the Philippine Association for the Gifted, supports the celebration of the National Week for the Gifted and Talented.

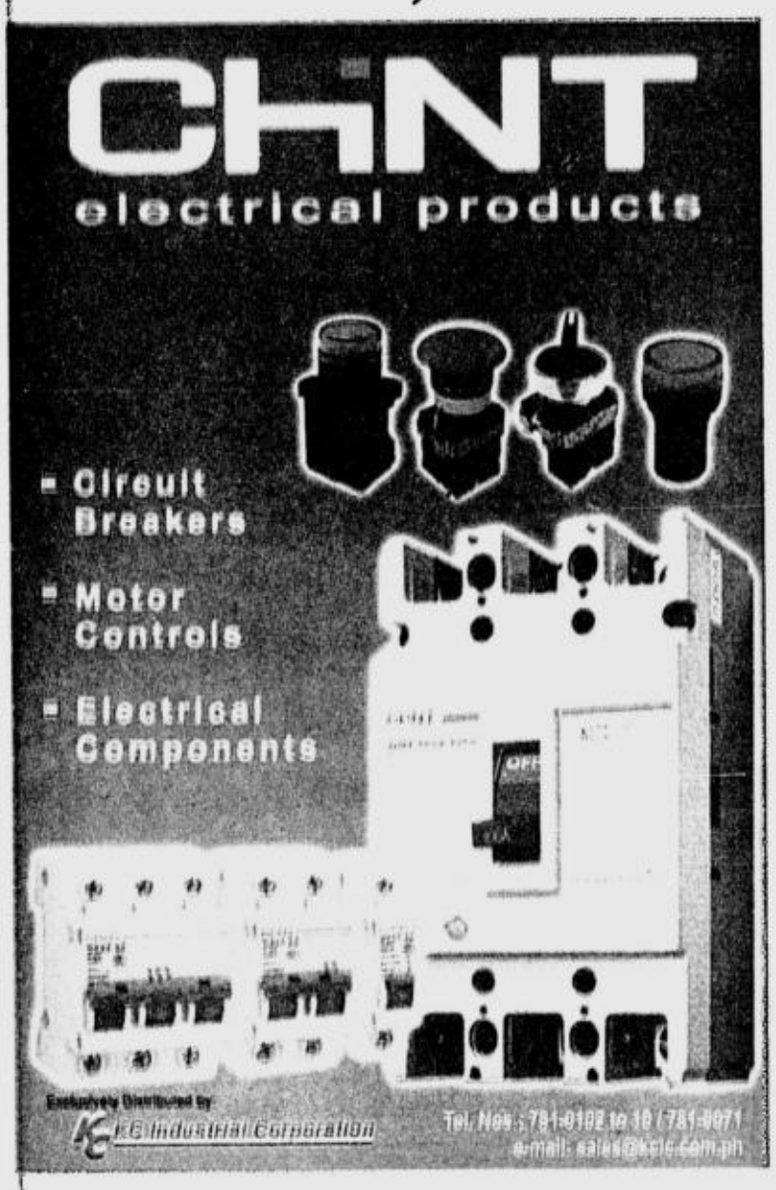
Clockwise from left: Jacob Sarreal (Saxophone), Paulina Gutierrez (Classical Musician), Joseph Valdes (Violin Virtuoso), Pocholo Gutierrez (Prodigious Cellist), and Christian Tan (Violin Virtuoso).

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Father, husband, friend of Davao folk



By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

HE WAS KNOWN for that voice that spoke of how the people can topple an oppressive regime. That was the time when gatherings of people were usually followed by arrests.

But the power of Marcial Talbo's persuasion, his wife Florian said, attracted her and many poor people of Davao to the man who helped set the pace for the movement for change in the city.

It was during the early 1980s when Marcial, known among his colleagues as Tibong, became a community organizer for Agdao District.

"His heart has always been for the poor and the oppressed and the victims of injustices committed by the state and their cohorts," Florian said.

Tibong, who hailed from a poor family in Bohol but moved to Agdao in the 1980s, was one of the four fatalities in the Nov. 13 blast in the House of Representatives that also killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar. He was the driver of Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, who also suffered multiple shrapnel wounds from the explosion.

FLORIAN TALDO, wife of Batasan bombing victim, Marcial, speaks of her husband's achievements in a speech as she joins the funeral march from St. Peter's Church to Batasan gate for Marcial Taldo and other victims in the Batasan bombing incident. JOAN BONDOC

Authorities found the body of Tibong inside Ilagan's service vehicle moments after the explosion. Florian said the body of her husband showed he had a painful death.

"He bit his lower lip, a clear indication that he was in pain," Florian said.

She said the last text exchanges she had with her husband was just before the explosion. She had asked him what time he would be home. She never got a reply. She said she did not mind it because of an arrangement that if he did not reply to her messages, it meant that he was already behind the wheels.

"He was supposed to pick me up at my office but I decided to go home ahead of him because he told me he might go home a little later," Florian said.

Organizer

Tibong, 54, was organizing an urban poor community in Quezon City before he volunteered to work for Ilagan. He was the president of the Samahan ng Birhen Fatima, an urban poor group fighting to own the land they have been occupying for many years now.

In 1987, the couple left Davao because of threats by the anti-insurgency group Alsa Masa that targeted them, being active members of progressive organizations. Their family became part of the Davao City Displaced Families and was likewise part of a Mindanao support group, Katig Mindanao.

One of the most significant of his activities in Davao was the establishment of the Alyansa Batok sa Kawad-on (Alliance Against Poverty) or Albaka, which was then headed by Florian's mother, Inocenta Wenceslao.

Volunteer

In Manila, Tibong volunteered as driver and messenger for various nongovernment organizations like the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace. He worked for the Save the Children Foundation, Philippine Social Science Center, German Development Agency (GTZ) and Oxfam-USA.

Mae Fe Ancheta-Templa, former consultant of Save the Children (UK)-Philippine Office, said Tibong was a competent and careful driver.

His friends said they were not surprised when he opted to drive for Ilagan as he was the kind who was always eager to volunteer whatever skills he had to the progressive movement.

"He was always willing to help people and he never snapped out despite circumstances that could have tested his patience," Florian recalled.

> Ilagan, during the short time that Tibong worked for her, described him as "a conscientious and cheerful worker who had much initiative"

Grace Noval, coordinator of Gabriela for Southern Mindanao and Taldo's longtime friend, said he was tireless in making people understand and see the issues concerning their plight.

"He was always there for them, ready to offer comfort and explanation," Noval said.

He also had no qualms doing house work, like cooking, doing the laundry and taking care of their little backyard garden, Noval said.

Ilagan, during the short time that Tibong worked for her, described him as "a conscientious and cheerful worker who had much initiative."

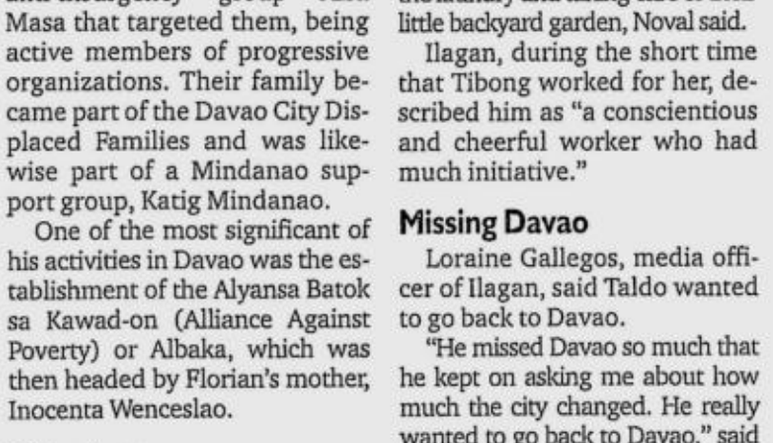
Missing Davao

Loraine Gallegos, media officer of Ilagan, said Taldo wanted to go back to Davao.

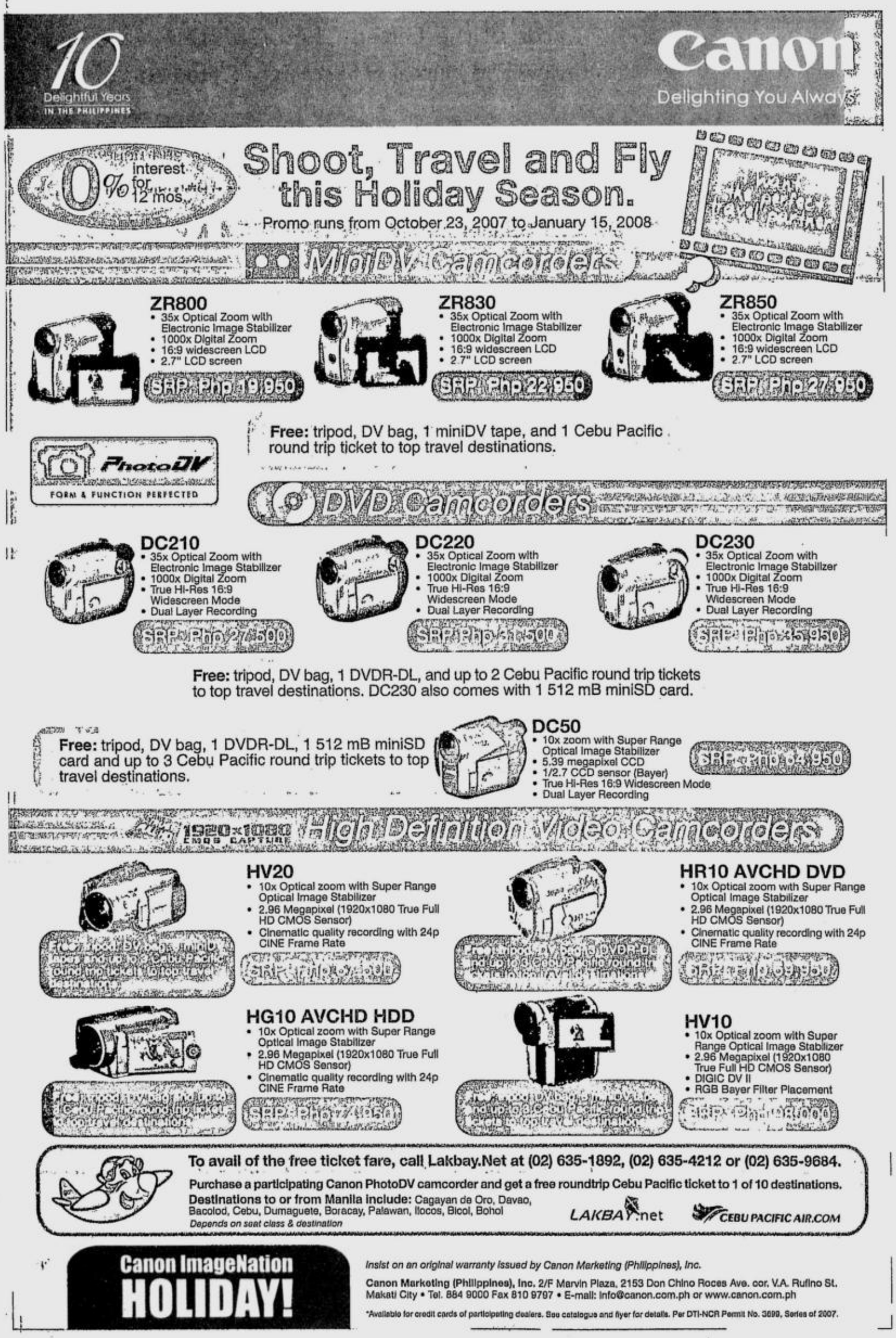
"He missed Davao so much that he kept on asking me about how much the city changed. He really wanted to go back to Davao," said Gallegos who also come from Davao.

Two days before the incident, Gallegos said, Taldo told her about their compound in Quezon City, which was occupied mostly by people coming from Davao.

"He came from Agdao and the people in their compound are mostly his relatives from Agdao. I told him that it appeared that he never left Davao at all," Gallegos said.



WOMEN'S groups and other organizations join Florian in a march for the blast victims. FILE PHOTO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In supporting government efforts to bring down the cost of medications, the PCP urges legislators and health policy makers to put in place adequate safeguards for the purpose of protecting patients and preventing "practice-of-medicine-at-the-drugstore-counter".

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Second, we lack the infrastructure to ensure drug safety and efficacy. In the course of technical working group and committee hearings, it was universally recognized – even by the most tenacious adherents of cheap medicine laws – that the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) seriously lacks the capacity to deal with testing for safety, therapeutic and bioequivalence, and post-marketing surveillance. This is a serious issue that must be addressed by provisions of the bill.

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25 November 2007

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NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
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Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
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Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
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ARMM execs want Sulu poachers sued

COTABATO CITY—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have recommended the filing of charges against 19 Chinese poachers, who were arrested in the Sulu Sea in August.

Sajud Druz Ali, ARMM agriculture and fisheries secretary, yesterday said the Chinese poachers will remain under Philippine custody until the case has been resolved.

Earlier, Keisei Tan Usman, Ali's assistant secretary, said there were efforts to secure the release of the poachers and their vessel, which is now impounded in Tawi-Tawi.

Usman said he and Ali were offered a P700,000 cash "settlement" in exchange for not pursuing charges against the suspects.

Usman did not say who made the offer but added that it could have been part of an agreement made by lawyers of the firm owning the vessel.

Ali said the poachers have violated the country's fishery laws when they yielded live turtles during a search of their boat.

He said the turtles reportedly came from Turtle Island, off Tawi-Tawi.

Sea turtles are endangered species and the country's fishery laws prohibit their capture or collection.

"That's why even the marketing of turtle eggs, believed to be highly aphrodisiac, is strictly prohibited," Sani Macabalang, fishery and aquatic resources director for Central Mindanao, said.

Ali said aside from the turtles, authorities also seized other banned marine species such as dolphins and whales from the arrested poachers.

Authorities have been helpless against poaching in Philippine waters, mostly in the Palawan area.

Many cases of poaching off Palawan seas have been settled in court, leading to the release of suspects and their vessels. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

HARD LABOR
Residents of the coastal village of Luna, La Union gather various kinds and sizes of stones which they sell to exporters. Most of their products are exported to Japan. Stone picking is a main livelihood for most of the residents. EUSEBIO G. AGUINALDO/CONTRIBUTOR

24/7 condom shops to cater to Sulu folk

JOLO, SULU—TAUSUGS WERE not so receptive of the free contraceptive program but this reality failed to exclude Sulu from becoming one of the 10 pilot areas, where birth-control pills and condoms would be sold.

On Friday, the Sulu Provincial Hospital launched its "pop shop," where Tausugs, who wanted birth spacing, could avail themselves of contraceptives and other health needs at low prices.

Dr. Farah Tan-Omar, provincial hospital chief, said the pop shop will be open 24/7.

"I should be responsible for the quality of health services our people need from contraceptives to mosquito nets, to address the critical health requirements in our province," Tan-Omar said.

Tan-Omar said the decision to sell contraceptives was brought about by the phaseout of the contraceptive donation program of the United States Aid for International Development (USAID).

She said health officials wanted mechanisms to make contraceptives available to those who want it and these include selling them.

Chi Vallido, deputy director of the Philippine NGO Council (PNGOC) on Population, Health and Welfare Inc., said the United Nations Population Fund and USAID used to allot P56 million for contraceptive subsidy in the country.

But Vallido said it will end this year.

Vallido said under the transition program in connection with the phaseout of the fund, local distributors have been tapped to sell contraceptives at subsidized prices in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Bohol and Masbate.

But PNGOC said as in the past, there would be no coercion in the use of contraceptives in these areas although its promotion would be vigorously pursued.

"Even economists have warned that failure to curb the country's runaway population at an average of 2.36% every year, could drive more Filipinos to poverty," Vallido said.

The government has shied away from aggressively promoting the use of artificial contraceptives to help control the country's booming population because of the staunch opposition by the Catholic Church. *Ed General, Inquirer Mindanao*

No cash, no attendance for mayors in meet

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ALL 21 members of the Pampanga Mayors League did not attend the meeting of the Provincial Development Council that Gov. Eddie Panlilio convened here on Friday to discuss the investment plan for 2008.

Because no quorum had been reached, the council, on the motion of Board Member Johnny Quiambao, the only provincial board representative who came, opted to hold a caucus instead.

Consensus

The PML secretary-general, Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores, clarified that the PML "did not boycott the PDC." "It was the consensus of the PML that the projects intended for the 2007 budget be implemented first," he said.

He was referring to the P3 million worth of barangay projects that mayors recommended and which Panlilio approved in July when the PDC was first convened after 12 years.

Instead of coming, Flores said the PML sent Panlilio, as chair of the PDC, a letter to explain the position of the mayors.

"As per our letter Nov. 8, 2007 regarding the deferment of the discussion of 2008 annual development plan, PML will not attend due to the non-implementation of 2007 development plan as assured by your office during the PDC meeting held on July 4, 2007," the PML said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo interacts during the recent barangay elections with her godson, Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, son of alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda and whose family was believed to wield strong influence over Pampanga's mayors. LYN RILLON

No cash, no attendance

The PML vice president, Bacolor Mayor Romeo Dungca, said it was clear to the mayors that they would not get the projects in cash.

"We are expecting implementation, not cash," he said.

PML spokesperson, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, said he did not know about the PDC meeting since he had been sick since Monday.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, Representatives Aurelio Gonzales and Carmelo Lazatin and San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez sent their representatives to the meeting.

All seven elected representatives of people's organizations and nongovernment organizations were present.

Palace affair

Panlilio declined to call the PML's mass absence as a boycott. It was seen as such by some quarters here after Panlilio and the mayors differed on how the governor handled the issue of his receiving P500,000 in Malacanang last Oct. 11.

Most of the mayors won as partymates of defeated gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda whose recount bid against Panlilio has yet to push through.

"I was expecting them and I'm trying to understand them. They missed the process where we explained the new system in implementing projects," he said. "I wish they would come next time."

At least P62 million of the P146-million 2007 developments funds will be bid out starting Nov. 27. Unlike before, every project now has a detailed program of works, which Panlilio said would "truly benefit the mayors' constituencies." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Gov't allots P30M to repair Samar, Negros mines

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNment has allotted P30 million for the rehabilitation of two abandoned mine sites in Western Samar and Negros Oriental, mining officials said here.

The two mine sites are both in critical condition but the abandoned site in Western Samar will receive the bulk of the budget, according to Michael Cabalda, secretary of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA).

"P30 million may be a small amount for now, but it is enough within the defined objective of rehabilitation. The amount will be enough to utilize the site and to make sure that the place is more safe and environment friendly," he said.

He, however, said a natural process is taking place in the abandoned mine sites which is aiding their rehabilitation.

Cabalda also said the government has listed 15 mine sites which are being considered for rehabilitation.

"Included in the rehabilitation are mined areas which were abandoned 50 years ago. We will go back to these sites to rehabilitate them. We can no longer afford to have mines which are not safe," he said.

He said the 15 mine sites are in different states of deterioration and the government is outlining programs to seriously address their impact on the environment.

The government's rehabilitation program is under Executive Order 270 or the National Policy Agenda on Revitalizing Mining which mandates the rehabilitation of abandoned mines as a top priority.

Rodolfo Velasco, head of mining environment and safety division of the Mines Geosciences Bureau, said the government would require mining companies applying for exploration permits and mineral production sharing agreements to submit the environmental protection and enhancement program (EPEP) to ensure that rehabilitation would take place.

"With the EPEP, the mines could operate while implementing the rehabilitation programs. After 10 years, the mines could implement the final mine rehabilitation program and decommissioning plan," he said. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

2 councilors held for drugs

DARAGA, Albay—Police arrested two Masbate City councilors caught in a pot session at an abandoned house Wednesday.

Police identified the Masbate City councilors as Rodolfo Cortez III, 35, and Jesus de la Rosa, 46.

They were arrested while using the banned substance shabu. A companion, Noli Rosero, escaped but was arrested the following day.

Police found in the house lighters, rolls of aluminum foil, pieces of plastic with shabu residues, scissors and tooters.

The three are now detained at the Masbate police station and face charges. *Jaymee Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Crime gang leader slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police killed the alleged leader of a syndicate behind the abduction of a dentist in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro last month.

The gang leader, Romeo Alcantara, 46, was slain in a gunfight in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, police said.

Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz, Oriental Mindoro police director, said Alcantara was the mastermind in the kidnapping of Dr. Gregorio Hora, 48, who was snatched in his home in Victoria town Oct. 10.

Aside from kidnapping, Alcantara was also charged with 17 counts of rape by two minors more than a year ago.

Cruz said Alcantara's gang was also behind the string of robberies in the province.

Other members of Alcantara's gang are now being hunted, said Cruz. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Wait longer for new passports

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Northern Mindanao Consular Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs here said the processing of passport applications would now take longer because of the implementation of a new system.

Mardomelio Mellicor, acting DFA director, said starting Thursday this week, the DFA won't issue anymore green passports in favor of the machine readable passports (MRPs).

He said the processing of the new passports would take 15-25 days.

The new system requires applicants to personally appear at DFA offices for their thumb prints and signatures. *Grace Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*

2 traders gunned down in market

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two businessmen were gunned down by unidentified men inside a crowded public market in Biñan, Laguna early Saturday, police said.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Laguna police director, identified the slain victims as Henry Agustin, 55, and Enrico Tierro, 34, both residents of Barangay Platero, Biñan town.

He said the victims were busy tending to their meat stalls at the Biñan Public Market in Barangay Poblacion at around 2:30 a.m. when two unidentified men approached and shot them at close range.

Five companions of the assailants served as lookouts.

The attackers fled in motorcycles toward Sta. Rosa City. No motive was determined. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

2 suicides baffle police

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—Police have started investigating two cases of suicide here, which occurred in just a span of three days this week.

Insp. Ruben Pornobe, town police chief, said they wanted to make sure that there was no foul play.

On Wednesday, 22-year-old Arnie Pandong of Sibulan Lote in Barangay Astorga was found hanging in his house.

Pornobe quoted relatives of the suicide as saying Pandong always threatened to kill himself every time he was drunk.

On Monday, 16-year-old student Rachel Jane Boncalos was also found lifeless in her house in Barangay Zone I.

Like Pandong, she apparently hanged herself, Pornobe said. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

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More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Late SPORTS

Li notches win No 4; So in hunt

Standings after four rounds: 4 points—C. Li (China); 3.5—Z. Zhang (Singapore); 3—W. So (RP), M. Paragua (RP), B. Nadera (RP), R. Dableo (RP), D. Ballecer (RP), R. Andador (RP), F. Pialan (RP), H. Ni (China), L. Yu (China), Q. Huang (China), Y. Wang (China), D.T. Hai (Vietnam); 2.5—E. Torre (RP), J. Gonzales (RP), O. Dimakiling (RP), J. Sadorra (RP), R. Bancod (RP), E. Senador (RP), R. Suelo (RP), B. Lluch (RP), H. Nouri (RP), N.A. Dung (Vietnam), X. Zhang (China), W. Zhou (China); 2—R. Bitoon (RP), C. Garma (RP), S. Yap (RP), F. Donguines (RP), O. Barbosa (RP), R. Nolte (RP), A. Milagrosa (RP), R. Salcedo (RP), V. Sevillano (RP), R. Panopio (RP), R. Atotubo (RP), C. Castellano (RP), N. Situru (Indonesia), Tirto (Indonesia)

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER-CANDIDATE Wesley So, GM Mark Paragua and IM Barlo Nadera all drew their matches yesterday, leaving Li Chao of China alone at the top with a perfect score of four points in the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Cup international chess championship at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City.

Li, seeded third in the nine-round Swiss system event with an Elo of 2548, bested third round sensation WGM Wang Yu (Elo 2364) to keep his pursuers at bay.

GM Zhang Zhong, a Chinese now representing Singapore, thwarted Weiqo Zhou of China to grab solo second place with 3.5 points.

The 14-year-old So, bidding to become the country's eighth and youngest GM before the end of the year, drew with WIM Huang Qian of China, while Paragua split the point with Yu Lie of China to lead a big group of players with three points.

Nadera also split the point with GM Eugene Torre to join So and Paragua with three points in the company of IM Ronald Dableo, Dino Ballecer, Rolando Andador and Fernandito Pialan.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Aces vent ire on Dragons

Caguioa shines as Kings trip Tigers

REYNEL Hugnatan of Alaska defends against Welcoat's Jay-R Reyes in this file photo. PDI PHOTO

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods
6:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

ALASKA BOUNCED BACK FROM A controversial loss with sustained fire in the second half.

The Aces vented their ire on the Welcoat Dragons, pulling away in the third quarter on the way to a 105-85 victory at the Araneta Coliseum that gave Alaska a tie for third spot at the end of their first round stint in the Smart PBA-Philippine Cup.

"There's no use looking back, we need to look forward," coach Tim Cone said, referring to the denial of their protested 86-87 loss to Purefoods by the Commissioner's Office on Thursday.

"The record we have shows we can play with the big boys, and by that we can really be competitive."

In the second game, Mark Caguioa came off the bench and scored 35 points to lift Baragngay Ginebra to a 110-102 victory over Coca-Cola.

Caguioa made 13 of 18 shots, including four of six from beyond the arc, to power Ginebra to a 3-6 record. Coca-Cola fell to 1-7.

Alaska improved to 5-4, while the Dragons, who took their second straight loss, closed out with a 3-6 slate but with the playoffs still well within sight.

Willie Miller, the reigning MVP, scored 22 points and Reynel Hugnatan and Tony Dela Cruz chipped in 16 apiece for the Aces, who scooted away by snuffing the fire out of the Dragons in the final two periods.

From a 52-49 count at the half, Alaska outscored Welcoat, 53-36, as the Dragons failed to display the offensive savvy they had in winning two of their last three games at the expense of Talk 'N Text and Magnolia.

Denver Lopez led the Dragons with 21 points, while Nic Belasco added 18 and nine rebounds. Top draft pick Joe Devance was good for 19 points and six boards.

It was simply a fitting comeback for the Aces, who were denied of a win by a glaring officiating error that allowed Purefoods to escape with a victory on Wednesday.

Officer in charge Renauld Barrios acknowledged the fault of the officials who worked the game and confirmed that all three referees will be suspended indefinitely for the error.

Meanwhile, in-form Red Bull shoots for a third straight win and solo second place when the Barako clash with Talk 'N Text tonight at 6:35 p.m. also at the Big Dome.

Purefoods tries to pull farther away from the pack earlier when the Tender Juicy Giants lock horns with the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the 4:15 p.m. contest.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 105—Miller 22, Hugnatan 16, Dela Cruz 16, Laure 11, Cortez 11, Cariaso 10, Thoss 8, Ferriols 5, Quiñahan 4, Bono 2, Aban 0, Cabatu 0.

WELCOAT 85—Lopez 21, Devance 19, Belasco 18, Reyes 16, Gelig 6, Araña 3, Ybañez 2, Dulay 0, Sta. Maria 0, Walnwright 0.

Quarters: 31-24, 52-49, 83-70, 105-85

Second Game

BRGY. GINEBRA 110—Caguioa 35, Helterbrand 25, Artadi 13, Reavis 12, Holper 6, Tubid 6, Salvacion 5, Mamaril 4, Menk 3, Macapagal 1, Aquino 0.

COCA-COLA 102—Duremdes 24, Telan 22, Peek 18, Catli 14, Caceres 9, Enrile 4, Echavez 4, Dimaunahan 4, Tolomia 3, Isip 0.

Quarters: 24-25, 45-44, 77-78, 110-102

Japan pool: Reyes, Corteza, Kiamco unscathed

FILIPINOS EFREN "BATA" REYES, DEfending champion Lee Vann Corteza and Warren Kiamco racked up three straight wins to reach the round-of-32 of the 40th All Japan Championships at the Hotel New Archaic Hall in Amagasaki-shi, Hyogo, Japan, late Saturday.

The 53-year-old Reyes hammered K. Hirota of Japan, 9-7, the 38-year-old Kiamco stunned two-time Asian Games 9-ball gold medalist Yang Ching-shun of Taiwan, 9-3, while the 28-year-old Corteza crushed 2005 Taiwan World Pool Champion runner-up Kuo Po-cheng of Taiwan, 9-6.

Meanwhile, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Ramil Gallego hurdled their respective rivals to stay alive in the losers' bracket late Friday.

The 43-year-old Bustamante trounced Y. Akagariyama of Japan while Gallego crushed Ceri Worts of New Zealand to remain in contention for the top prize.

The former World No.1 Bustamante, the 2007 UPA Pro Tour champion in Bellflower, California, earlier beat T. Noda of Japan before yielding to another Japanese Y. Hisada in the winner's bracket.

Gallego crushed Au Chi-wai of Hong Kong then bowed to Hung Hsiang-wang of Taiwan.

Bustamante will take on Yang while Gallego will battle Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Fe del Mundo: Her children's hospital is 50 as she turns 96

From page A1

Blackwell, conferred in New York on women of outstanding service to humanity, has placed Del Mundo on an honor roll that includes anthropologist-author Margaret Mead, tennis star Billie Jean King and the first female US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright.

Secrets for long life

Del Mundo was born on Nov. 27, 1911, in Intramuros, Manila, the sixth of eight children of Bernardo del Mundo, a prominent lawyer who hailed from Marinduque, and Paz Villanueva.

Relatives and close aides believe that a good diet, daily prayers, a natural healer's stamina, plus the fact that Del Mundo has remained unmarried, are what have kept this wispy grand dame of Philippine medicine from hanging up her stethoscope.

It is also easy to attribute everything to providence and well-earned bliss. As Del Mundo herself has said in one of the many articles written in praise of her: "If you give the world the best that you can, the best will always come back to you."

But really, what are her secrets for long life, the INQUIRER asked her last week.

"Secrets? You need to pay me before I tell you," she said with a thin-lipped smile, toying with a question that, to her, must have become a well-worn cliché.

But she obliged with a bigger smile. Perhaps because "I have not eaten rice for the last 40 years (or when she hit her 50s)," she said, noting that with her tiny frame she easily got stuffed. "They say that if you want to live long, eat less."

Yet, according to an amused doctor at the hospital, Del Mundo never misses out on her favorite snack—potato chips.

'Whose brain is this?'

Elisa Bengzon, Del Mundo's niece and now the medical center's board chair, recalled that her aunt had an accidental fall about 10 years ago and had to undergo an MRI at another hospital.

Unaware of who the patient was, the doctor who looked at the test results remarked, "Whose brain is this? It looks like the brain of a 27-year-old."

Bengzon said the doctor was surprised to find out that the brain in question was that of a woman in her 80s. "I was further told by the doctor that [Del Mundo's brain] had many convolutions (ridges on the surface), and that the more convolutions, the sharper the brain," she said.

Del Mundo lives in the hospital and keeps a regular schedule. Rising at 5 a.m., she hears Mass every morning at the nearby Sto. Domingo Church before making her rounds, seeing walk-in patients, or attending conferences.

She also keeps a "3 o'clock afternoon prayer" habit. After dinner she retires to her second-floor suite.

She prefers to sleep in a typical "hospital bed"—the kind in use at the medical center, according to Dr. Cristina Gutierrez, chief of the pediatrics department.

Bereft of vanities

Except for floral-printed sheets and a side table where she keeps her everyday jewelry and Johnson's baby powder, the room is virtually bereft of vanities, not even her own photograph.

A simple altar—bearing the face of Christ in relief and three pictures of Our Lady (of Lourdes, of Perpetual Help and of Guadalupe)—is among the first things she sees when she awakes.

Del Mundo's resumé (as of 2006) shows at least 91 service awards and academic and corporate titles, as well as affiliations with medical organizations here and abroad.

Yet nothing in her inner sanctum suggests these earthly accomplishments.

All the plaques, certificates, magazine clippings (including pieces from Time), photos and other memorabilia are mounted on the hallways of the four-story, 107-bed medical center.

With so many of them on display, and with time for only a passing glance, it's quite easy to miss the major highlights of Del Mundo's career: She was the first woman to be admitted to Harvard Medical School (1936), first Filipino diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics (1947), first Asian president of the Medical Women's International Association (1962), first woman president of the Philippine Pediatric Society (1952), and first woman president of the Philippine Medical Association (1972).

In 1973, she developed a low-cost incubator and fluorescent device for babies suffering from jaundice and underweight infants.

She has also authored some 150 studies published in local and foreign medical journals, and wrote a weekly newspaper column for 20 years.

Clinical eye

Like most doctors of her generation, Del Mundo tends to be "not so dependent on laboratories and machines" in coming up with a diagnosis, Gutierrez said.

Taking the patient's history and doing an on-the-spot physical exam would often be enough for Del Mundo to decide which medication to prescribe, the younger doctor said.

She has what in her field is called "a clinical eye."

"Start him on this [medicine] or that," Gutierrez said, quoting her boss' usual instructions. "And then it's us (assisting doctors) who specify the dosage."

Asked how she approaches each case, Del Mundo said: "I always feel that my patients will get well. I tell the parents to just pray, be hopeful ... and I will do the caring."

But her defining moments—epiphanies that made her decide to become a physician and later specialize in pediatrics—were hardly tales from the playpen.

By her reckoning, she realized that she wanted to be a doctor after seeing how death could coldly stalk the young, including those she loved.

Three of her siblings died in infancy. A fourth, Elisa, older than her by two years, died of disease at 10.

Taking Elisa's place

Among the belongings Elisa left was a small notebook where she wrote that she wanted to take up medicine.

"And so I decided to take her place," said Del Mundo, who also lost her mother when she was in her early teens.

Years later, when she was in medical school, she was further convinced that healing children was her calling:

"I was in the province of Marinduque to study a town there, and while waiting for my chance to talk with the provincial health officer, I saw many funeral corteges passing.

"I realized that there were more children than adults in the coffins.

"I made my own conclusion—that more children were getting sick and dying there than adults. And I thought something must be done."

This was before World War II.

After graduating from UP and placing third in the board exams, Del Mundo earned a Philippine government scholarship to Harvard. She took up further studies at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University.

Children's home

Summoned by the government to return home as war loomed over the Pacific, she had a car accident during a stopover in Honolulu. She recuperated there, and was back in Manila a few months before Japanese forces entered the capital in January 1942.

The war forced the young doctor to put off plans to set up a children's hospital—a project she had personally proposed to President Manuel Quezon.

Nevertheless, she seized an opportunity to serve in the enemy-occupied city, and unknowingly started on a path that was to turn her into an icon of her profession.

With the help of the local Red Cross, Del Mundo managed to convince Japanese military officials, then holding some 5,000 American, British and other Allied nationals incarcerated at the University of Sto. Tomas, to let her care for the prisoners' children.

She and a few staff members were allowed to set up a children's home and makeshift hospital outside the prison camp, first located in a Red Cross building and later moved to the then Holy Ghost College to accommodate more wards.

On the first day of its operation, the foreign parents entrusted to Del Mundo the care of 17 children. By the end of the war, she had mothered some 400 children.

The US government honored her for her "unflagging and selfless dedication and sacrifice."

Child care, rural health

After Liberation, though highly qualified to build a career in the United States, Del Mundo chose to be a pioneer in child care and rural health in her country.

On her 46th birthday, she finally realized her pre-war pet project.

Built with her own funds and an P800,000-loan, the Children's Memorial Hospital—which would eventually be renamed after her—was formally inaugurated on Banawe Street. Much of the area was grassland then.

In time Del Mundo sold her house and lot—where she also had a private clinic—to raise funds to buy more equipment for the hospital and complete its third and fourth floors. It was then that she started living in the hospital.

At a time when remote barrios had yet to be covered by immunization drives and where only midwives and herbalists tended to the sick, Del Mundo led Manila-based medical teams on missions from Cagayan to Jolo.

In the countryside, she oversaw lectures and demos on the early treatment of common child ailments, hygiene, family planning and proper nutrition. She studied and mapped out infant mortality rates in far-flung areas to come up with a better guide for the allocation of limited health care resources.

In her prime, Del Mundo was the top doctor on call for the young children of ranking public officials and dignitaries, including Malacañang residents like the Marcoses.

(It escapes her memory if she had ever responded to a Palace call involving a teenager named Gloria during Diosdado Macapagal's presidency.)

Up to 20 admirers

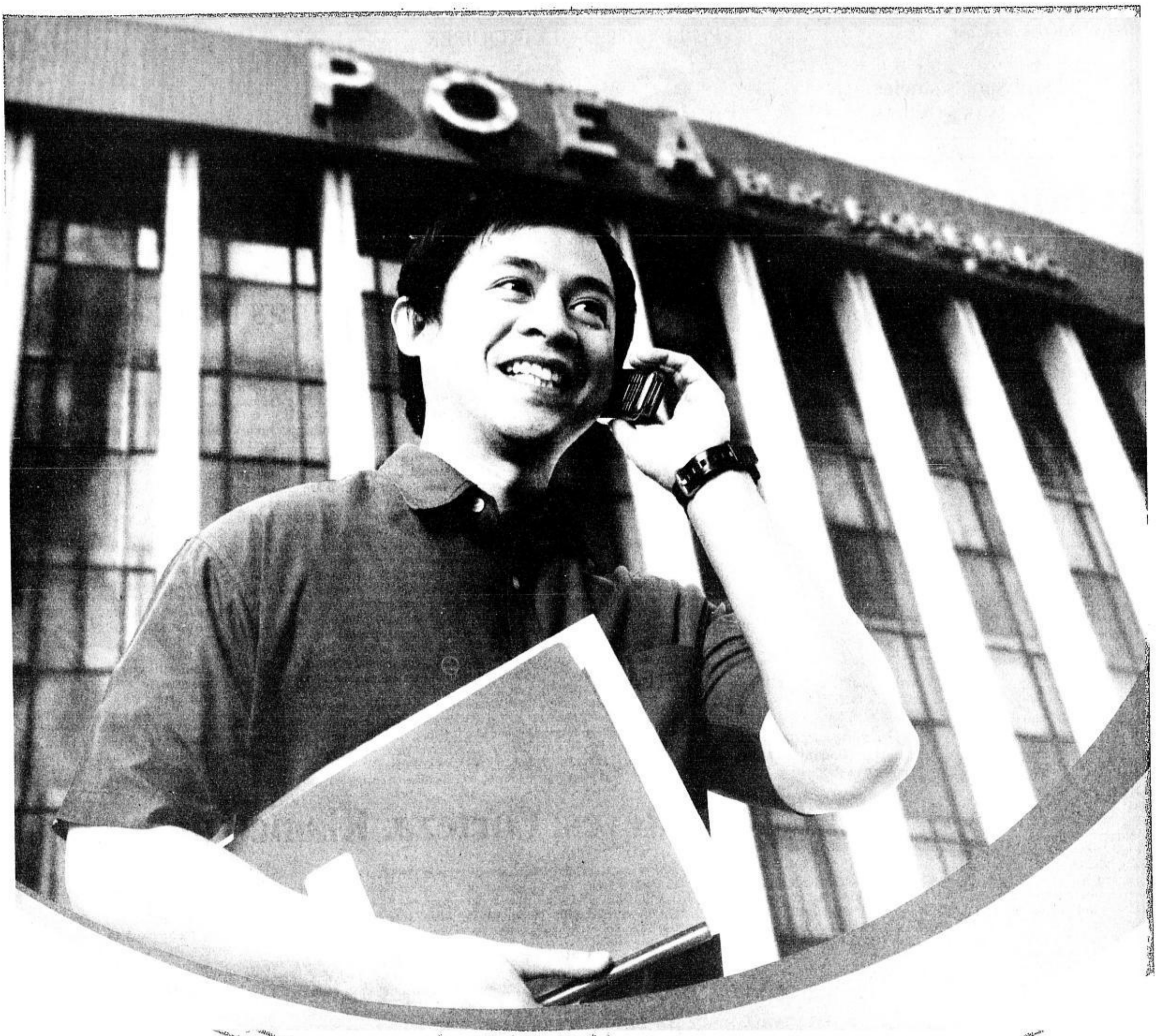
All those years, did Del Mundo ever consider seeking the proverbial greener pastures abroad?

"No," she said. "When I came back I knew it was for good. I saw the need here. I was in the United States for five, seven years, but it was my desire to come home and serve."

According to Bengzon, the young Del Mundo had at one time "up to 20 known admirers," with "the more serious ones" including "a doctor who even followed her to the United States."

"What happened to me was," Del Mundo said, smiling, "when I got to the age of marrying, I was already quite busy with many things."

"Time just flew by," she said. "But I have no regrets. No regrets at all."



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Priest helps kids kick street habits

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IF FRENCH PRIEST JEAN-François Thomas were to have his way, he would prefer that the Tulay ng Kabataan (Bridge for Children) Foundation cease to operate because it would mean that there were no impoverished children languishing in the streets of Metro Manila.

TALES OF THE CITY

But until that day comes, Thomas, the 50-year-old executive director of the TNK, said he and his volunteers would continue to wean children from what he calls the "habits of the street."

"There is a need and the problem will not be solved in the next few years. I want to close down the TNK because then it would mean that these children already live decently. But there is still a need for the foundation," the Jesuit priest, who teaches philosophy at the Ateneo de Manila University, told the INQUIRER.

For almost a decade, Thomas and his staff, composed of coordinators, psychologists, social workers, street educators, nurses and teachers, have been saving children—victims of violence, drugs, prostitution and hopelessness—from a life in the streets.

In 1996, he was sent by the Jesuits to the country to help out the needy. In 1998, Thomas formed the foundation after he saw the plight of the poor children. He has not left since then.

FATHER Thomas and his "recruits." PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Asian culture

Asked why he, a foreigner, was interested in helping the poor when other Filipinos would rather ignore them, Thomas replied, "Sometimes I can't grasp why this is so. This is the Asian culture, but maybe, people feel shy about facing poverty."

But he pointed out that not all Filipinos feel the same way as he praised his staff. "I have great admiration for them. They are so dedicated to their work. They don't do it for the money but out of compassion. They want the children to have a future."

He recounted how their social workers or street educators, as he preferred to call them, toil day and night in 50 different areas in Metro Manila to convince solvent abusers, street gang members, children who have turned to prostitution and scavengers to abandon their "habits" and grow up to be productive individuals.

Thomas explained that he prefers to use the word "habit" because some of the children rescued by the foundation find it very difficult to resist the temptation of returning to a life in the streets.

But he stressed that the kids are always free to leave the centers as long as they know that there are places and people like those in the foundation who would willingly take them back should they change their mind.

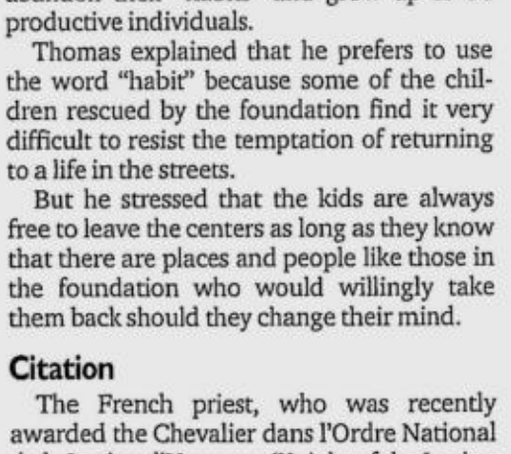
Citation

The French priest, who was recently awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, through French Ambassador to the Philippines Gerard Chesnel, recalled that his foundation "started little by little in a modest and simple way."

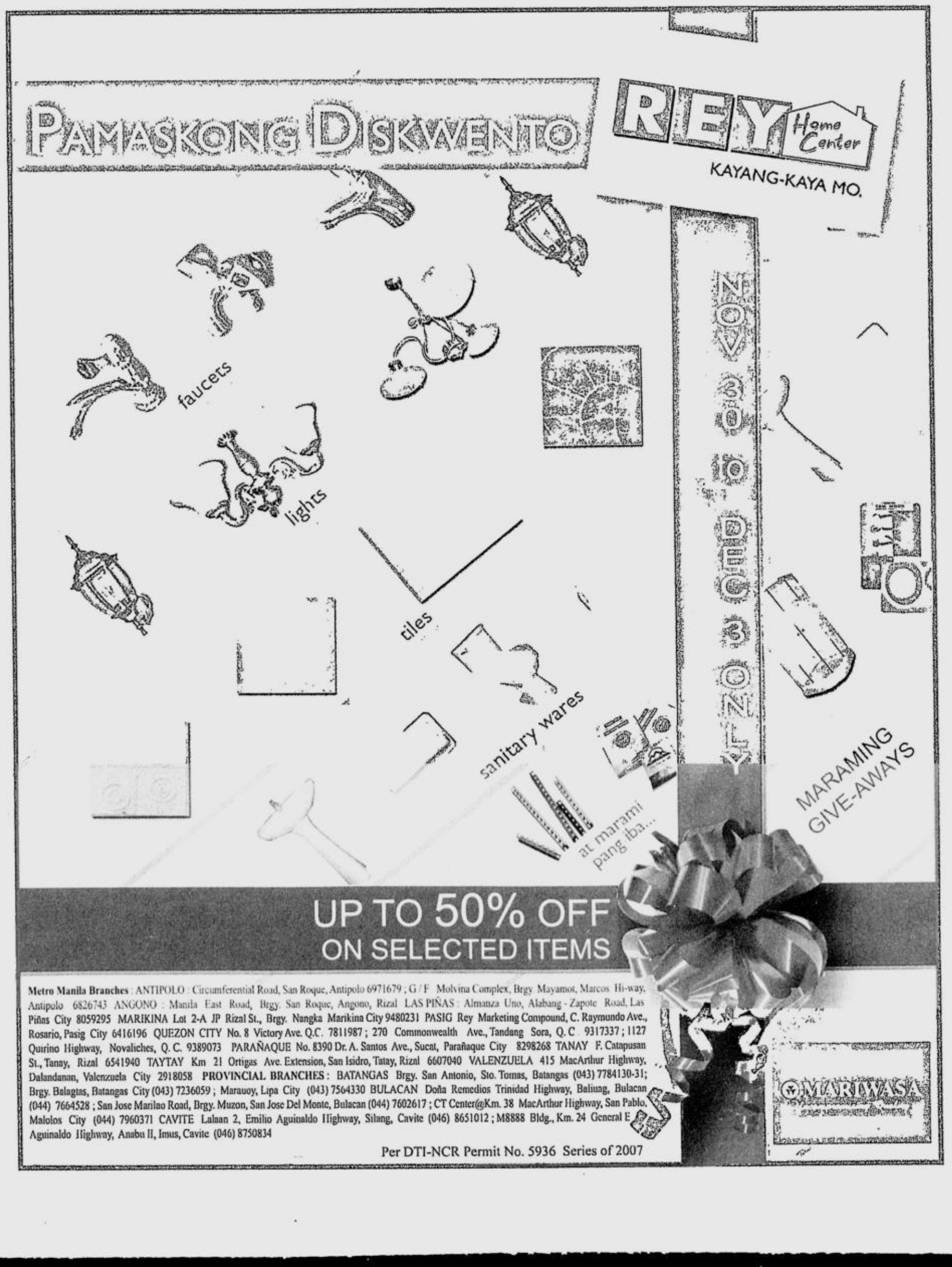
"There used to be only one center. But now, there are many homes," Thomas said, referring to 20 drop-in centers which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for street children seeking shelter. There are two others for the care of the mentally-handicapped.

The foundation has a bridge class open

PRIEST/ A22



"THE PROBLEMS of children are so many, but I try not to despair," says the Jesuit priest.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Priest helps kids ...

From page A21

four days a week to children staying in the TNK centers. It helps prepare those who have dropped out of school to resume their formal education.

The foundation likewise operates a boarding home which looks after 25 teenagers and trainees enrolled in the foundation's carpentry program. The furniture made by the students are sold later by the foundation.

The TNK also has five early learning centers which cater to children between the ages of three and six.

Poorest of the poor

Although he has impressive credentials—a doctorate in philosophy from La Sorbonne in Paris and a master's degree in theology from Cambridge in the United States—Thomas said he prefers to work with the poorest of the poor.

"I am always a beggar looking for funds," he said with a chuckle, adding that he has been working tirelessly to approach philanthropists in order to sustain the operations of the TNK centers.

"Financially, I am in the hands of Divine Providence. The problems of children are so many, but I try not to despair. I think, 'What will happen to them?' I try not to think of the future and focus instead on the present," he added.

The TNK has three programs for the poorest children in Metro Manila: One for those living in the streets, another for children residing in slum areas and lastly, for minors who scour the dumps for a living.

These programs aim to save children from the streets, improve their health, nutrition and education as well as respond to emergencies, malnutrition and other illnesses, and rebuild their future.

Thomas said the youngest child in the care of one of the centers is three years old while the eldest is 19 years old.

400 recruits annually

He can no longer recall how many children the foundation has helped since every year, about 400 children are "recruited." Five of these "recruits" are now college students; many are in the secondary and primary levels.

Most of the children were recruited by TNK street educators or were turned over to their care by the Department of Social Work and Development.

Thomas expressed admiration for Filipinos in depressed areas who continue to toil for subsistence. "I am very impressed. In my case, I am French, life has been easy. I do not have to struggle in order to survive," he pointed out.

"But you (Filipinos), even if you are facing difficulties, you are still able to smile," he said. "This touches me very, very much. I believe this is one of the strengths of the Filipino, not being able to lose hope."

THE PRIEST says he learned to be patient in the Philippines. "It is a much better attitude and less stressful. This is one of the virtues of the Filipino that I learned."

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UMC's Ur Van, Ur Business helps make hard-earned OFW money grow.

For every story of an Overseas Filipino Worker making it big abroad and seeing his family prosper, there often is a tale of the OFW who toiled for many years, only to return to a life no better than the one he left.

The difference may lie in the family's decision making - that is, what to do with the money their OFW made.

While many find it tempting to splurge on expensive luxuries with the arrival of those dollars, financial experts always suggest not spend too much of one's income on such items - at least, not until one has sufficient savings, or better yet, investments. Before anything else they say, it pays to use your money to make more money.

Making your money work for you

A practical choice these days, UMC proffers, is to start your business. Specifically, "Ur Van, Ur Business".

As part of its UVUB efforts to spur entrepreneurship in the Filipino, with the underlying principle of helping others help themselves, UMC has instituted the "Ipadala Mo, Negosyo" - a program designed for OFWs, and allow their families more options for a self-liquidating mobile-business venture.

"The overseas Filipino workers, our modern-day heroes, and their families should have more avenues for making their earnings work for them," says Elizabeth Lee, EVP of Universal Motors Corporation.

"We wish to see the OFW and his family get the most out of their hard-earned money. We want to help them realize that the Nissan Urvan can be an investment tool capable of moving them forward," she continues.

The Nissan Urvan comes in variants that can seat 12, 15 or 18 people. Its robust construction ensures years of service and low maintenance, and a variety of configurations offer many possible business opportunities: commercial shuttle, cargo van, or even a roving tiangge. The possibilities are limitless.

UMC also provides added assistance through the Asenso Negosyo Academy, an entrepreneurial education program initiated to assist Urvan buyers looking to start their own businesses, and how to best use the Nissan Urvan to their advantage.

Asenso for All

The help that UVUB extends to those wishing to improve their lives does not end there.

For every Urvan bought under the Ur Van, Ur Business program, a P1, 000 donation is given to the Center for Community Transformation's micro financing arm, giving seed money to underprivileged entrepreneurs, helping them start their own micro-business. In effect, Urvan buyers end up helping fellow Filipinos become micro-entrepreneurs.

CCT president Ruth S. Callanta says that UMC shares a common vision of a poverty-free Philippines. "The UVUB program is different from other business advocacies in that it is integral to a company's business," she notes.

"Our underlying principle of making a difference in other people's lives can be realized by continuing to grow the program to help even more people as we go along," says Ms. Lee. "We measure our success by how much we contribute to the success of our customers."

With the success of the UVUB and its effect of helping others, Nissan worldwide is planning to replicate the program in several countries.

Starting Ur own Business

For those interested in the UVUB and Ipadala Mo, Negosyo programs, text your name address and contact number to 0917-83-URVAN. You can also email UMC at *ofw@mynissan.com.ph* or visit your nearest Nissan dealer.

"LET ME say that investing in our country is the best we can make because nowhere else is the payback as satisfying as in the only country where we can feel safe and respected."
TEDDY LOCSIN, August 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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inquirer gp name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Dollar weak but he's going strong

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

EARNING DOLLARS is not as lucrative as it was a couple of years ago, with the continued weakening of the greenback against the peso, my dad told me through a text message.

And so, in the middle of the Caribbean, my father, Nonito, who has been working abroad as a seafarer for the last 27 years, asked my older brother and I to spend wisely the money he sends for the upkeep of our house and whatever miscellaneous expenses we need.

A chief engineer, my dad is one of the millions of OFWs whose income had "shrunk" amidst the strong peso.

It's a good thing then that my mom, Tomasita, who manages the funds my dad earns, is one of the thriftiest people in the world. I have always told her that had thriftiness been a crime, she'd end up locked up in jail, for sure.

A SEAMAN'S CATCH: Nonito del Rosario proudly shows his granddaughter Carylle Faye one of the fruits of his overseas labor, a three-door apartment in San Pablo City. NONITO DEL ROSARIO JR.

Real estate

Realizing my dad won't be able to work abroad forever, my parents invested in real estate. Through the years, my parents had acquired several parcels of land in Laguna, where we live, and built apartments on them.

They started dabbling in real estate in the early 1990s when they bought an old house in San Pablo City and renovated it themselves before they rented it out.

Years later, the six-door apartment had earned back the money my parents used to purchase it. They did the same thing to three more apartments they bought in the last decade.

And while my dad spends some 10 months on board cargo ships, my mom is as busy on land.

Here, she manages our apartments with the help of my brother, Nonito Jr. Together, they collect the monthly rentals of our apartments which total to 20 doors. My mom also supervises whatever repairs necessary to keep the rooms in pristine condition.

100 doors for rent

"I will retire when we already had 100 doors for rent," I remember my father telling me in jest over lunch a few years ago. This because he said is the only way he would be able to earn the same amount he makes working abroad.

At the moment, my mom is overseeing the construction of two more apartments in Alaminos, Laguna, the blueprints of which were designed by my brother. This would add another eight doors. Not bad but still a long way to go to hit the 100-mark, my dad said.

> Realizing that one can't work abroad forever, my parents invested in real estate and a fishpond, which came with a reminder for us his sons to spend wisely because the dollar is no longer what it used to be

My older brother, who is taking up nursing as a second course, on the other hand, manages the property my parents recently bought. He is in charge of looking after the *rambutan* and *lanzones* trees we had planted while my parents decide on what to do with the land.

An OFW in the making, my brother plans on leaving the country after finishing his studies. For the meantime, he was also tasked, with the help of his wife, Blechelle, to supervise the construction of a convenience store we would be putting up in our barangay soon.

Remitter, currency changer

Living and working in Makati has kept me from helping in the maintenance of our properties as I am only home in Laguna for a day every week. Although, whenever I get the chance, I accompany my mom to the apartment in Alabang she also manages.

Being the most adept in the family when it comes to banking and financing, I often advise my parents on which banks would give a highest yield for our time deposits. Always on the go, I also continuously look for potential properties which my parents might want to consider buying.

But even before my parents had made enough savings to buy our parcels of land, my father had always found a way to earn that extra income.

While at sea, my dad would act as the ship's currency changer and remitter. Instead of his crewmates coursing their earnings through banks or remittance companies, they would rather transact business with my dad.

What happens is that my father, after receiving the dollars from his crewmates, would send a text message to my mom with the contact details of the money's recipient. My mom, in turn, sends instantly the amount, in pesos, to the bank account of the recipient in the country.

They earn a couple of bucks from every transaction by converting the dollars into pesos using an exchange rate which is a bit lower than the prevailing rate in the market during the time of the transaction.

In a way, my father is happy to help his crewmates. He sends their money to the Philippines fast, even while they are on board the ship, without inconveniencing them in any way.

Spending on leisure

Not only that, my dad also occasionally sells cell phone loads to his crewmates. After receiving a text message from my dad, my mom sends the pin numbers of the cell phone loads which my dad, in turn, sells to his crewmates.

Growing up, our parents religiously provided for us the things we needed, but never in excess. There were no major decisions in my life made without the blessing of my father who, even miles away, commanded respect because of the hard work he had put in for the family.

It is always a simple gathering when my dad comes home every year. He would arrive only with two suitcases which contained his clothes and some important documents. Rarely does he go home with *balikbayan* boxes and it would be a feast if he comes home with packs of chocolates. Occasionally, though, there would be perfume for my mom.

This, I later realized, is how well my dad gives value to the money he earns. Early on, they had inculcated in my brother and I how hard it was to earn money abroad.

Travel

While other OFWs would go home clad in pieces of jewelry, my dad would come home wearing the same clothes he left with a year ago.

While my parents break their backs in working nonstop, once in a while, they also spend on leisure activities. Early this year, my parents toured the Unites States and Mexico and are already planning a trip to Europe next year.

With my dad's earnings, we also managed to buy four different vehicles.

Grandparents to my brother's 2-year-old daughter, Carylle Faye, mom and dad could not be happy enough to indulge the kid with children's books and educational toys to play with.

Several years back, my dad tried his luck in running a business venture which he hoped would earn a comparable amount of money to what he is earning abroad so he could stay in the country.

He partnered with a friend, a fellow seafarer, and together, they put up a maritime recruitment agency. For a couple of months, the business looked promising. They were sending hundreds of people abroad.

Fishpond

But the earnings weren't enough to support the family, especially because my brother and I were still going to school then. My dad was forced to work abroad again.

It was at this period that the recruitment agency got into a difficult time and was not making money. My father decided to leave the partnership after he earned back the money he invested in the venture.

My mom and dad are well on their way to their 50s. Retirement pops into the picture. My dad's latest investment, a fishpond he bought in Los Baños, Laguna, is what he plans to focus on when he finally decides to stay and work in the country for good.

My dad, who grew up helping his father toil their farm in Bicol, believes that breeding *tilapia* and other kinds of fishes would be the perfect business venture for him. More fun than the 100-door apartments he initially wanted, he hopes.

Uphill battle to pass the veterans equity bill

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

ALING MILA, 85-YEAR-OLD widow of a Filipino World War II veteran who is at present residing in San Francisco, California expressed her disgust when I told her that it would take probably another 15 years before her daughter is granted a visa based on her petition. This is based on current immigration processing time filed for adult children.

This year, Aling Mila re-filed a new petition for her adult married daughter because the prior petition filed by her husband was automatically rescinded when the latter died exactly six years ago. Aling Mila's feelings of weariness are valid as she slowly realizes that the issuance of the visa for her daughter is not happening soon. She says that she would be 100 years old in fifteen years and will be lucky if she's still alive by that time.

Descendants of Filipino World War II veterans often ask the question as to when they can join their aging parents in the United States. It must be understood that this veterans issue is not just a family reunification issue. It is primarily an issue of a historical injustice when the provision of the 1946 Rescission Act was enacted divesting our Filipino veterans of their classification as US veterans. If this 1946 provision had not been enacted into law, then the war veterans and their families probably would have been now residents of the US.

There are, of course, political reasons why it did not happen that way.

The veterans bills

Now that most of these veterans are diminishing in number at a faster rate, the intensity to pass the Equity Bill in the US Congress becomes significantly relevant.

For those Filipino World War II veterans who are still around, their hopes are for their family to join them in the US and for the Equity Bill to be passed in the US Congress. Both of these issues require legislative action.

The special legislation giving preference to the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans to go to the US is now incorporated in the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill for which no action has been taken by both Houses of Congress.

In the same manner, the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill pending with the 110 US Congress has been heard by both the Senate and the House awaiting for vote on the floor hopefully by the end of this year.

In 1990 when the Immigration Act was passed after half a century of advocacy for naturalization for Filipino veterans, thousands came to the US to live their dreams.

But what some foresaw as a dream turned into a nightmare as their dream and hope to be treated as US veterans remained elusive. Many died hoping that the equity bill would be passed. Mr. Bunagan, on his death bed, said that he would like to see equity pass for his veterans colleague. Mr. Punla, who is very sick, returned to the US as he heard that the equity bill was close to being passed. He collapsed in my office because of old age and weakness.

The lobby

But lobbying to have the bill passed is not a one-man show. Neither does it belong only to one organization. It requires a collaboration of effort from all sectors of the community. There are increasing challenges that are being experienced in the last 15 years when the equity bill was introduced in Congress.

There are several roadblocks on the path to the passage of veterans' equity.

First, different lobby groups advocate for different positions. One group advocates only for veterans residing in the US and excludes those residing in the Philippines. The other group of which I represent only advocates for full equity supporting only a bill that will benefit all veterans irrespective of residence. The clashes of opinions resulted in confusion among supporters and even among legislators considering that there is no one position represented.

Second, more groups are engaged in mere rhetoric and grandstanding than actually pushing passage of the bill. Like in the recent celebrations and events honoring the veterans but no specific action is taken or a commitment is made to engage in the lobby effort.

Third, there is a lack of focus from different organizations, and even the current administration only recently announced this year its support for full equity.

And lastly, there is a lot of misinformation in the media glorifying fictitious or menial achievements related to the veterans issue that are not even close to passing the equity bill.

Challenge

There must be a strong commitment to join the campaign and that the focus is only on one position. Unless real action is taken by each and every Filipino American in collaboration and support of all various national organizations including the current administration, the campaign for full equity will remain an elusive dream.

There may be reasons and circumstances that we may have inherited in the past that are making this campaign an uphill battle. For those who believe in the cause, I challenge them to have the courage of their conviction to stand up for what is right. We owe our veterans our lives, the freedom and the democracy we all enjoy. They deserve no less than equity.

(Tancinco is chair of the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center. She may be reached at law@tancinco.com or (02) 887-7177)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Lebanon faces fresh turmoil as presidency ends in chaos

BEIRUT—LEBANON FACED AN EXPLOSIVE power vacuum Saturday as President Emile Lahoud stepped down at the end of his term with no elected successor and a raging feud over who was in charge in the politically divided nation.

Lahoud, who is backed by Syria and Iran, walked out of the presidential palace in a simple ceremony at midnight Friday.

Before leaving office, he said he was handing over responsibility for the country's security to the army, a move slammed by pro-Western rival Prime Minister Fuad Siniora as unconstitutional.

The standoff prompted global calls for calm and for Lebanon's fractious leaders to find a compromise in the political deadlock that has gripped the country for the past year.

Speaking to reporters, Lahoud warned that "if they do not elect a new consensual president, with the required two-third majority, we have men who can stand up."

He also reiterated his view that Siniora's government was "illegal and unconstitutional, whatever America and France and others would say."

With tanks and troops on the streets of Beirut to maintain security, lawmakers from the Western-backed majority and the Hezbollah-led opposition had been scheduled to convene on Friday in a final bid to elect Lahoud's successor.

But the session was postponed, for the fifth time in two months. A new vote has been scheduled for Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people, mostly supporters of parliamentary majority leader Saad Hariri, feted Lahoud's exit in central Beirut's Tarik Jadideh quarter with traditional dances.

"We are celebrating because Lahoud's mandate was the darkest in Lebanon's history," said local resident Mazen Hammoud.

"It is during his mandate that all these martyrs were assassinated, including former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri," he said.

Rafiq Hariri, Saad's father, was killed in a 2005 massive Beirut bombing that has been widely blamed on neighboring Syria, which was subsequently forced to end 29 years of military domination in Lebanon.

Lahoud, a Christian Maronite and a former army chief who has been head of state since 1998, had vowed not to hand power to Siniora.

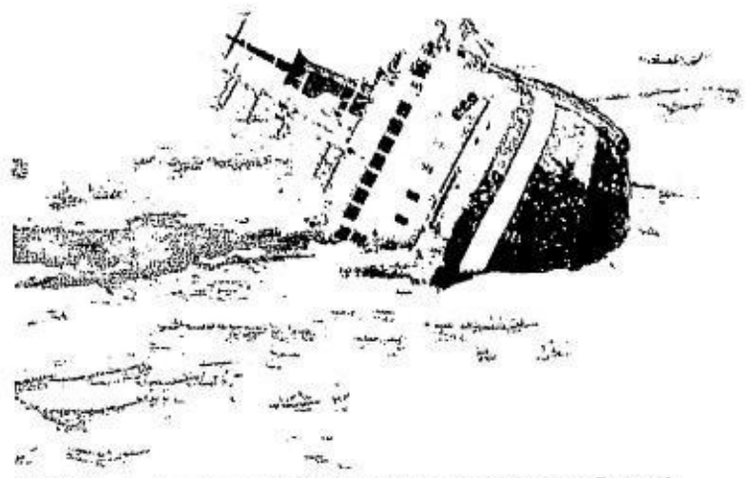
Instead, presidential spokesperson Rafiq Shalala announced Friday night that Lahoud had decided to hand over to the army responsibility for maintaining order as "there are conditions and risks on the ground that could lead to a state of emergency."

However, an official in Prime Minister Siniora's office said Lahoud's action "is not valid and (is) unconstitutional. It is as if the statement was never issued."

Following a Friday night cabinet meeting, Siniora said the government would carry on with its duties after midnight.

The long-running standoff has prompted fears that two rival governments could be formed, as was the case at the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

The ruling coalition had called on all MPs to attend Friday's session to elect a new president but the opposition said it would boycott the vote. *AFP*



IN THIS photo released by Chile's Navy, the Liberian-flagged Explorer cruise ship is seen sinking after it hit ice in Antarctic waters on Nov. 23. AP

An icy rescue as seas claim cruise ship

THEY WERE MODERN ADVENture travelers, following the doomed route of Ernest Shackleton to the frozen ends of the Earth.

They paid $7,000 to $16,000 to cruise on ship that had proudly plowed the Antarctic for 40 years.

But sometime early Friday, the Explorer, fondly known in the maritime world as "the little red ship," quietly struck ice.

There were the alarms, then the captain's voice on the public address system calling the 100 passengers and the crew of about 50 to the lecture hall, according to passengers' accounts on the radio and others relayed from rescuers and the tour operator.

In the lecture hall, they were told that water was creeping in through a fist-size hole punched into the ship's starboard. As it flooded the grinding engine room, the power failed. The ship ceased responding.

"We all got a little nervous when the ship began to list sharply, and the lifeboats still hadn't been lowered," John Cartwright, a Canadian, told CBC radio.

About 1:30 a.m., the passengers climbed down ladders on the ship's side into open lifeboats and inflatable craft.

They bobbed for some four hours in the rough seas and biting winds as the sun rose and the day broadened, sandwiched between the 20-degree air and the nearly freezing waters. Their crippled ship traced loose circles in the steely ocean.

And then a research ship and a Norwegian cruise liner that had heard the distress call approached.

"There was a long line of black rubber Zodiac boats and a handful of orange lifeboats strung out, and it was very surreal because it was a very beautiful morning with the sun glistening off the relatively calm sea," said Jon Bowermaster, a travel writer and filmmaker who was aboard the research ship, the National Geographic Endeavour, and was reached by satellite phone. "And all you could think was how relieved these people must have been when they saw these two big ships coming."

It was not immediately possible Friday to reach the passengers, among them 14 Americans, 24 Britons, 12 Canadians and a smattering of other nationalities. But they were in good spirits, said Capt. Arnvid Hansen of the Nordnorge, who was reached by telephone about 10 hours after the rescue. *NYT*

Exit poll says Howard loses Australia election

SYDNEY—THE FIRST EXIT POLL in Australia's elections predicted a landslide win for opposition Labor, with voters ousting the 11-year-old conservative government and possibly dumping Prime Minister John Howard from his own seat.

A Sky television exit poll of 31 marginal government seats forecast a 30-seat gain for the Labor leader Kevin Rudd. Labor needs to win an extra 16 seats to take office.

The exit poll of 2,787 voters by Auspoll gave Labor 53 percent of the vote and the ruling Liberal party 47 percent.

"It's very likely that Labor has won this election. Something in the order of 30-odd seats," said Auspoll's John Armitage.

Voting in Victoria and New South Wales, the nation's most populous states, ended at 6 p.m.

Howard, 68, has trailed in opinion polls all year with some forecasting a landslide victory for Labor, but surveys in the final days of the campaign said the contest was neck-and-neck.

Auspoll said a sample of 950 voters in Howard's marginal Sydney electorate showed the veteran politician, who has held his seat since entering parliament in 1974, had been dumped.

If Howard has lost Bennelong, he will be the first prime minister to lose his own seat in an election for 78 years.

Howard is a staunch US ally and if reelected has committed to keeping Australian troops in Iraq. He has offered voters A$34 billion (US$29 billion) in tax cuts, but few new policies.

Rudd has pledged to withdraw combat troops from Iraq and sign the Kyoto Protocol, further isolating Washington on both.

The Mandarin-speaking former diplomat would also be expected to forge closer ties with China and other Asian nations.

Howard kept up his grassroots campaigning until the polls closed in Sydney in a desperate bid to win a fifth straight term. *Reuters*

PRIME Minister John Howard AFP

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Department Stores: SM: Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Cubao, Davao, Iloilo, Mall of Asia, Makati, Megamall, North Edsa ROBINSONS: Bacolod, Festival, Galleria, Manila, Metro East & Pioneer RUSTAN'S: Alabang Town Center & Tower Landmark, Market-Market, Metro Ayala Cebu, Landmark

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4307 Series of 2007

Return of killer jellyfish

BELFAST—A FREAK wave of killer jellyfish staged a second attack on Northern Ireland's only salmon farm, massacring the babies after wiping out the adults earlier, producers said Friday.

Around 150,000 smolts were killed off by the billions of mauve stingers in the invasion on the north-east coast of County Antrim.

The attack comes just over a week after the jellyfish killed more than 100,000 adult fish worth more than one million pounds ($2.1 million), in the assault at Glenarm Bay and Red Bay.

The repeat carnage in Red Bay on the year-old "growers" has cost the beleaguered Northern Salmon Co. Ltd. another 500,000 pounds and leaves it in an even more perilous situation.

"That farm has been there for 20 years and that is the first time anything has happened like this," said manager Adrian Morrow.

"We are the only salmon farmers in Northern Ireland and, if we cannot get some financial help for this, then it looks like it is a bleak future for us."

"It will take us two years, if we can recover, to get stocks built up again. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Blasts in India courts kill 13

NEW DELHI—Indian authorities circulated sketches on Saturday of three suspects believed to be behind a series of blasts outside courts in three cities that left at least 13 dead and more than 40 wounded. Police said the blasts in northern Uttar Pradesh state on Friday afternoon were targeting lawyers. They are questioning a cyber cafe owner in connection with a threatening e-mail sent just before the blasts, media reports said. "Now the Islamic raides (sic) which is going to take place against lawyer within minutes," said the message received by some television news channels. The e-mail accuses lawyers in the state of beating up people falsely accused by the police of terrorism, adding the advocates "refused to take their cases and didn't allow others to take their cases." *AFP*

US calls for proof Colombia hostages alive

BETANCOURT AFP

WASHINGTON—The United States on Friday urged Colombian rebels to provide proof their hostages were alive, but stopped short of backing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in his stymied efforts to mediate in the crisis. "We continue to call on the Farc to present proof of life of all hostages," a US State Department spokesperson told AFP when asked about Colombian President Alvaro Uribe's decision to end Chavez's mediation for a prisoner-swap deal with the leftist rebels. Uribe said Wednesday that he considered Chavez's role as a mediator in the crisis was over because the Venezuelan leader had ignored his demand not to speak directly with Colombian generals about the hostages. But on Thursday Chavez called on the leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), Manuel Marulanda, to provide proof that 45 prominent hostages are alive, adding any freed hostages would be welcome in Venezuela. The Uribe administration is trying to strike a deal with Farc, which has offered to release 45 high-profile hostages, including French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and three Americans captured in 2003 during a US-backed antidrug operation, in exchange for 500 jailed rebels. *AFP*

Suicide bomb kills 6 Afghan school kids

KABUL—A suicide bomb on the outskirts of the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed six schoolchildren and wounded three Italians working on a project to build a bridge, an Interior Ministry spokesperson said. The hardline Islamist Taliban have killed at least 200 civilians in more than 140 suicide attacks so far this year in their campaign to oust the pro-Western Afghan government and eject the more than 50,000 foreign troops from the country. The wounded Italians were civilian aid workers, he said. *Reuters*

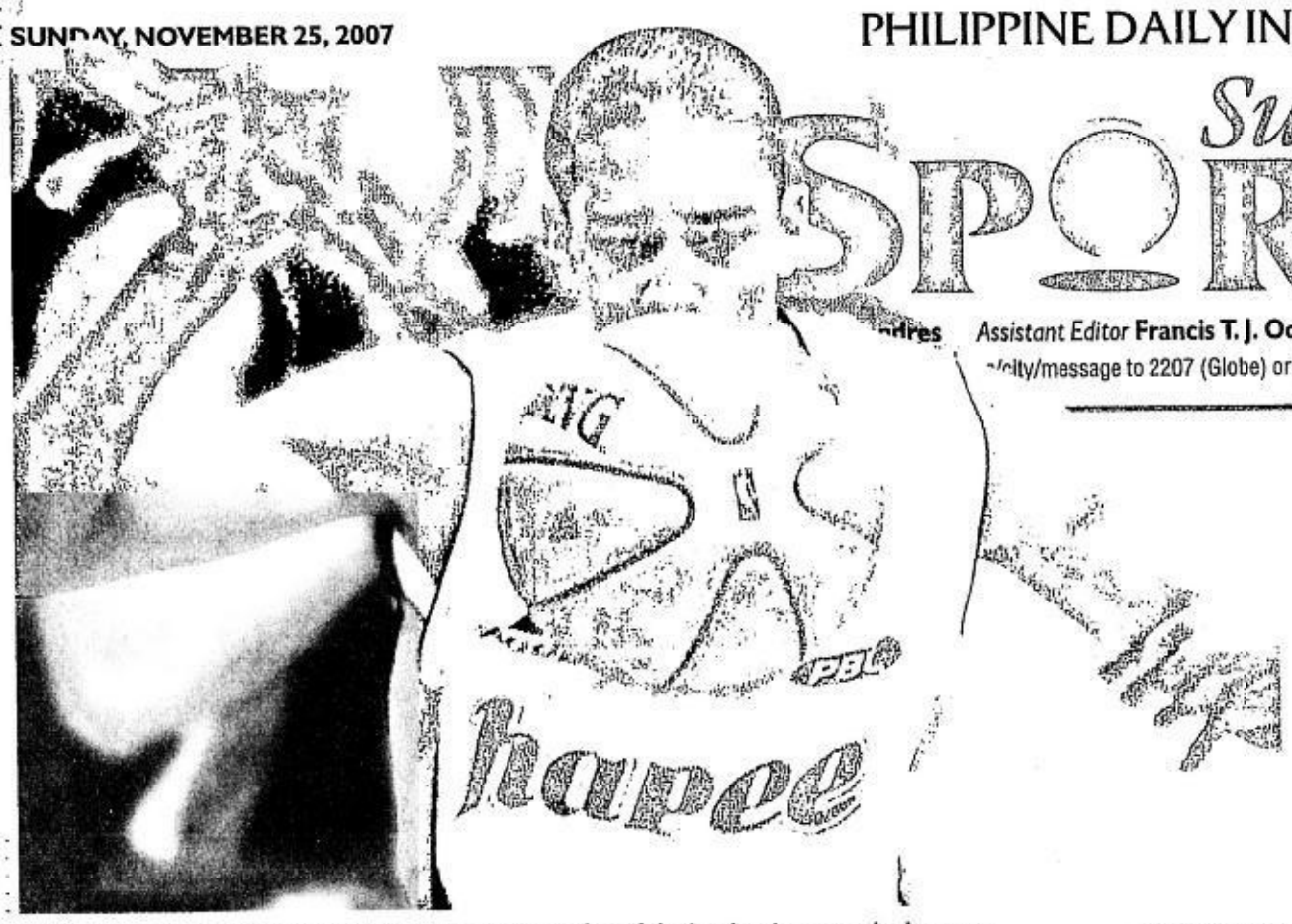
Surge brings new immigration backlog in US

IMMIGRATION authorities are swamped in new bureaucratic backlogs resulting from an unanticipated flood last summer of applications for citizenship and for residence visas, officials said. In July and August alone, the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services agency received 2.5 million applications, including petitions for naturalization as well as for the entire range of immigrant visas. That was more than double the total applications the agency received in the same two months in 2006, said a spokesperson, Bill Wright. In the 2007 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, the agency received 1.4 million petitions from legal immigrants to become US citizens, about double the number of naturalization petitions in the 2006 fiscal year, Wright said. *NYT*

Sunday SPORTS

Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
.../city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Celts trip Lakers; Wizards prevail /A28



GABE Norwood of Hapee momentarily loses possession of the leather in yesterday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Bobby triumphs; Manny arrives in LA for Nike ad

BOBBY PACQUIAO BUCKED A BLEEDING right cheekbone and stopped Mexican Fernando Trejo in the fourth round yesterday at the Morongo Casino Resort and Spa in Cabazon, California.

Manny Pacquiao missed the fight as he had just arrived in Los Angeles when Bobby ended Trejo's night early. The Filipino ring icon, who is set to shoot a Nike commercial with other big-named athletes, was reportedly ecstatic upon learning of the result of the bout.

Bobby Pacquiao fought off several counters to the head by Trejo and applied heavy pressure to the body of the Mexican for the knockout, which ended a two-bout losing streak.

Pacquiao now has 28 wins against 13 defeats. He has 3 draws. Trejo took his 13th loss in 43 fights. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Hapee keeps streak alive

Comets fan q'final bid

GAMES TUESDAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
12 nn—Pharex vs Bacchus
2 p.m.—Mail and More vs Toyota Balintawak
4 p.m.—San Mig Coffee vs Hapee

By Jasmine W. Payo

HAPEE'S AMAZING RUN CONTINUED, while Mail and More fortified its bid for a quarterfinal bonus at the start of the pool round of the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

Mark Borboran presided over a torrid third-quarter shooting as unbeaten Hapee streaked to its eighth straight triumph with a 93-85 decision of Harbour Centre.

Coach Jun Noel said his Complete Protectors were determined to keep the top spot despite securing an outright semifinal berth along with Batang Pier last Tuesday.

"We achieved our goal, we wanted to get the No. 1 spot going into the semis," said Noel.

Earlier, Khiel Misa buried the clutch baskets in the dwindling seconds to lift Mail and More past winless Bacchus, 76-73, for the Pool B lead.

"We know that it's not a free ride, that it's not given in a silver platter," said Comets coach Allan Gregorio.

Triple double

Borboran—the same hero in Hapee's nail-biting 77-76 win over Harbour in the eliminations—unloaded 19 of his 21 points in a third-quarter run from 55-53 that boosted the Complete Protectors ahead by as much as 22 points, 77-55.

Gabe Norwood had a triple-double performance of 14 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Complete Protectors ruled Pool A.

In the pool round, teams in each group clash in round-robin games carrying their records in the eliminations.

Pool A squads have secured early incentives for the next phase, leaving Pool B teams to fight for the last three quarterfinal berths.

Bacchus, winless in eight games, must win its next game versus Pharex to remain in the running for a quarterfinal slot.

Harbour Centre fell to 6-2.

The scores:

First Game

MAIL AND MORE 76—Arellano 14, Misa 13, Santos 10, Ballesteros 10, Gregorio 9, Baracael 8, Bauzon 5, Canlas 2, Masbang 2, White 2, Bonus 1, David 0.

BACCHUS 73—Cagoco 15, Raymundo 10, Mendoza 10, Guevarra 9, Fampulme 9, Martinez 7, Thiele 6, Dela Cruz 4, Dizon 3, Mondragon 0, Llagas 0, Labagala 0, Williams 0, Viardo 0.

Quarters: 13-16, 33-39, 54-58, 76-73

Second Game

HAPEE 93—Borboran 21, Juntilla 19, Norwood 14, Rodriguez 10, Grijaldo 10, Hugantan 8, Viray 5, Espiritu 4, Mercado 2, Quinday 0, Daa 0, Saguindel 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 85—Maierhofer 14, Gonzales 14, Mercado 12, Tang 8, Gaco 8, Fernandez 7, Ababou 7, Jahnke 5, Asoro 4, Cañizares 2, Vergara 2, Gamboa 2, Taylor 0, Malabanan 0, Dizon 0.

Quarters: 20-12, 38-37, 77-61, 93-85

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DIRECT HIT
KERMIT Cintron (right) connects with a right to the face of Jesse Feliciano during the fourth round of their IBF welterweight championship bout in Los Angeles Friday. Cintron stopped Feliciano in the 10th round to keep his crown. He, however, broke his right hand with the strong punch. REUTERS

Miñoza shoots 68, barges into top 10

FRANKIE MIÑOZA UPHELD HIS STATUS AS THE COUNTRY'S No. 1 golfer Saturday, moving up in the top 10 after three rounds of the Casio Open in the Japan Tour while his compatriots continued to struggle in separate events in the region.

Already a winner in the Japan circuit this season, Miñoza stood poised for another big payday by moving into a two-way tie for eighth place at 211 after shooting a four-under-par 68 to go with earlier rounds of 73-70 at the Kochi Kuroshio Country Club course.

The Philippine Open winner last February was only four strokes behind new Casio Open leader Chris Campbell of Australia, who fired a 64 for 207, just a shot in front of Japan's Toru Taniguchi and Koreas's IJ Chang.

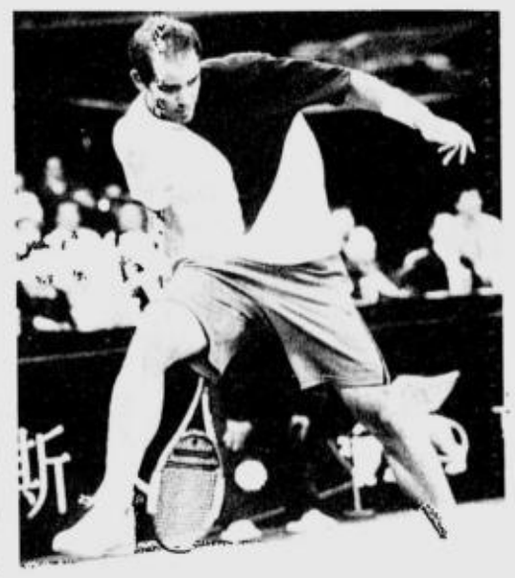
Meanwhile, Antonio Lascuña and Gerald Rosales stayed in a two-way tie for 23rd place in the field of 28 after three rounds of the $5 million Omega Mission Hills World Cup in Shenzhen, China.

After rallying with a four-under 68, the Filipino rookies totaled 208 which was 12 strokes behind the leading United States partnership of Boo Weekley and Heath Slocum, who had a 66 for 196.

In Hanoi, Mars Pucay and Artemio Murakami were within a stroke of each other in the middle of the field going into the final round of the $500,000 Hana Bank Vietnam Masters.

Pucay struggled with a 73 after earlier rounds of 72-69 and was in a six-way jam for 19th at 214. Murakami had a 72 after a 73-70 and was deadlocked for 25th at 215.

Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand grabbed the third-round lead with a 67 for 205, a stroke in front of England's Simon Griffits who carded a 68 at the Hanoi Phoenix Golf Resort course. *From the wires*



PETE Sampras hits a return against Roger Federer during their exhibition game at the Venetian Macao yesterday. AFP

Stehmeier-Floro leads

BOSOM BUDDIES KING STEHMEIER AND Valeriano "Bones" Floro both cracked par in their opening round at the Palmer course and positioned themselves for a rare double championship in the Founders Cup, the member-guest tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmarinas, Cavite.

Stehmeier turned in a spectacular five-under-par 67 gross while Floro backed him up with a 71 from the blue tees as they seized the lead in both the overall net and gross divisions.

At the end of the first half of competitions, King and Bones were six points clear of the next team in the net standings and 12 ahead in the gross rankings. When they return to Orchard to tackle the Player course today, Floro and Stehmeier will be bidding to become the first pair to sweep both awards in the 11-year history of Founders Cup backed by Globe Telecom, Security Bank/MasterCard, Bostik Phils./Davies Technical Solutions, BMW/Ford Alabang, Sta. Lucia Realty, Philippine Airlines and Mizuno as major sponsors.

The other teams leading the race in the other divisions at the Palmer course are Dante Felizarta/Florante Astilla and Nilo Ocampo/Cholo Cayanga with 78s in Group B, Romulo Gervacio/Alex Honrado with 78 in Group C and Jimmy Cu/Antonio Lim Hing with 74 in Group D.

It's Sampras over Federer

MACAU—PETE SAMPRAS FIRED OFF HIS trademark powerful serve in a shock upset of world number one Roger Federer in Macau on Saturday to post his first win in their three-game Asian exhibition series.

The former US world champion came back strongly after defeats in Seoul and Kuala Lumpur, forcing the first break of the match in the ninth game of the second set and serving out for victory to win 7-6 (10-8), 6-4 in 70 minutes.

He won the first set on a tie-break after a tight affair that had gone with serve on a lightning-quick court.

Sampras, 36, said the level of play in the final match was high.

"It was very fast out there, very quick conditions. It was helping out my service games. I got going a little bit today and it could have gone either way in the first set." The 26-year-old Federer praised his opponents serve, saying he still could compete at the top five level in the world.

"We delivered a great level of play. Unfortunately I didn't win today but the surface was really quick and Pete was playing really well and hardly making any mistakes," he said.

Sampras, who won a record 14 Grand Slams, started the match strongly with his heavy serve, hitting two aces in the first game and never letting up.

Federer, currently on 12 Grand Slams, had two set points in the first set tie-break, but Sampras escaped and made his second set point count.

Both players hit 14 aces during the match. Sampras made 15 unforced errors to Federer's 13, while Sampras won 14 points at the net to Federer's six.

Their clash in the packed arena at Macau's Venetian resort was their third match in just five days, following the meetings in Seoul and Malaysia.

Federer won the first match in Seoul on Tuesday 6-4, 6-3 in 61 minutes.

The second clash, in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, was a closer affair over 90 minutes, with Federer emerging victorious after winning both sets on tie-breaks. *AFP*

Marcelo youngest Karter of the Year

JEAN STEFANO MARCELO OF SAN Miguel Corp.-Marcelo Racing carved his niche in Philippine Motorsports history with his title-clinching feat in the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series that ended recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Marcelo emerged the youngest karter to capture the prestigious Karter of the Year plum at age 15 in 16 years of the country's most competitive kartfest.

Living up to the Marcelo championship tradition, Stefano wound up his title campaign in the premiere Formula 125 Open Seniors class with 609.5 points—following the footsteps of his car racing champ grandfather Eddie Marcelo, his jetski champion father John Marcelo and his late uncle, Indianapolis champ Jovy Marcelo.

"It's a dream come true," said Stefano. "I'm very lucky to have survived all the big challenges and controversies, and achieve this milestone with God's blessings and the big support of San Miguel Corp. and the whole Marcelo Racing Team.".

"The racing blood line has been passed," said John. "We're proud Stefano has carried on the family's championship tradition and we hope to see him reach greater heights in the years to come."

Stefano bagged the overall crown of the Southern Philippines ROK Series Championship, known as the Cebu ROK Open at the Kart Zone in Mabolo, Cebu City.

He also ruled the three legs of the Asian Karting Open Championship in Carmona, Indonesia and in Bangkok early this month.

STEFANO

La Salle-Ateneo golf duel slated

THE HIGHLY AWAITED DE LA SALLE-Ateneo Match Play 2007, a gathering of 36 of the best players from both schools in a Ryder Cup style format event, will be held Dec. 19-21 at the Tagaytay Highlands.

Ateneo thwarted La Salle in the inaugural staging of the event in 2004 at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Cavite but the Archers evened up matters with a resounding victory at Camp John Hay in 2005.

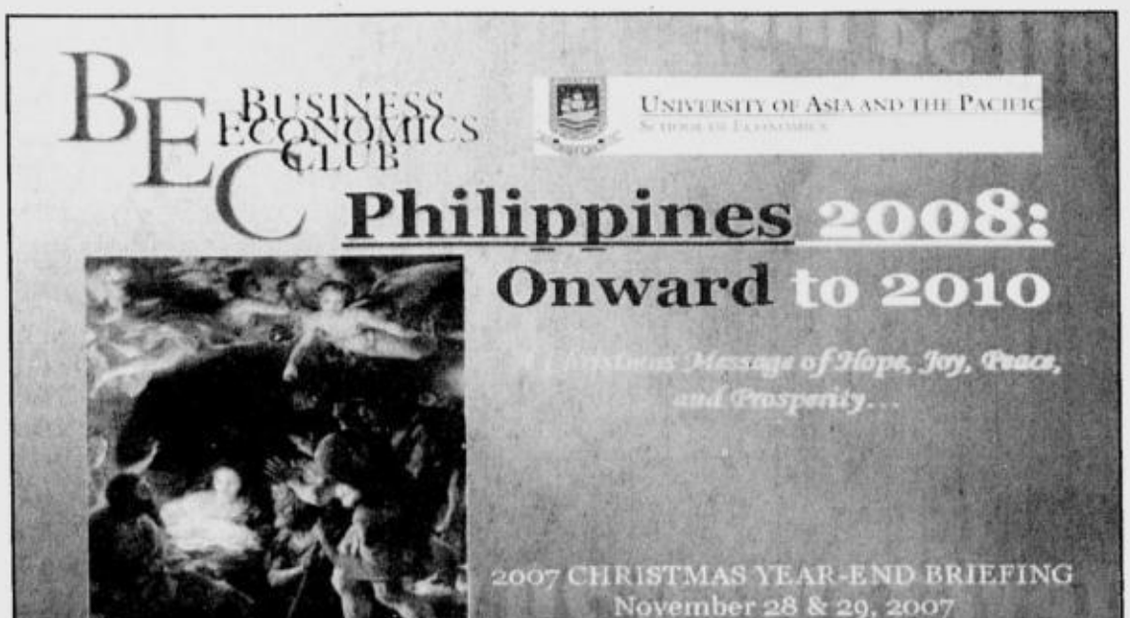
La Salle repeated over Ateneo when the event returned to Sherwood last year.

"While the two schools have always been known as the main protagonists for so long in the UAAP, this time we would like to see this match as a vehicle for unity and serve as an example for other organizations to emulate," said Jay Gervacio, president of De La Salle Alumni Association.

To all BEC members and alumni of Center for Research and Communication and of the University of Asia and the Pacific:

Don't miss the BEC's 40th homecoming and the Christmas Year-end Briefing on the 28th and 29th of November 2007, from 1:00 until 5:00 in the afternoon, at the Li Seng Giap Auditorium, University of Asia and the Pacific.

Business outlooks for the years 2008 until 2010 will be presented by Mr. Paul Joseph Garcia, Mr. Ronilo Balbieran, Dr. Victor Abola, and by Dr. Ramon Quesada.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For further inquiries, please call the Business Economics Club (BEC) at 631-1305; 637-0912 loc. 251, 335, or 309. Look for Ms. Kay Flores.

SPORTSWATCH

Ikeda tops Singapore Jrs

CHIHIRO IKEDA RODE ON A HOT START TO turn back Thai Yupaporn Kawinpako, carding a two-over par 74 to rule the first Singapore Junior Open Golf Championship by three strokes at the Tanah Meerah Country Club's Garden Course in Singapore last Thursday.

Ikeda, a Fil-Japanese member of the ICTSI golf squad, regained her bearing after firing an 83 in the second round, to rule the 15-18 age category with a 54-hole aggregate of 228.

FBL semifinals today

THE METRO MANILA FUTURES BASKETBALL League (FBL) starts its semifinal games today at the Jacinto Tiu competition courts of Xavier School in San Juan.

Defending mini division champion Ateneo de Manila—A slugs it out with sister team Ateneo de Manila—B for a seat in the finals following the first mini game featuring Sta. Clara International Academy against Don Bosco-Makati.Perennial midgets division champion San Beda-Alabang tangles with Antipolo Lady of Lourdes School.

Suba steals show

JET RACING KARTER VENCER JOHN SUBA grabbed the limelight with his photo finish victory even as teammate Javi Benitez bagged the Junior Karter of the Year award recently at the end of the 2007 Shell Helix karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

With just 10 meters from the finish line, Suba made the decisive move from behind Benitez and stunned the huge crowd when he grabbed the checkered flag.

It was a big comeback for Suba who hit the grass hard with his kart on top and lose consciousness for 12 minutes in the second heat.

TRS stages Focus Cup

THE 2007 FORD FOCUS CUP ULTIMATE CHALlenge started yesterday at the Subic International Raceway.

Eleven of the country's finest drivers will test their skills in two types of racing discipline in conjunction with Philippine Festival of Speed.

Drivers will compete in a Sprint Competition and a four-hour endurance competition in the two-day event being staged by Tuason Racing.

110 K Big Event today

SAN JUAN COLISEUM AND SAGUPAAN COMplexor 3000 present the 110 K Big Event 6- stag derby beginning at 1 p.m. today.

The 100-fight program will be hosted by Max Roxas of Tarlac and assisted by LCC group.

Participants include sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Super Pacman group, Pol Estrellado, Sonny Lagon, Ricky Reyes, Arman Santos, Lito Orillaza, Gerry Ramos, Rodolfo Pineda, Tony Tan, Tony Marfori, Efren Canlas, Lance dela Torre, Nene Abello, Eric dela Rosa, Boy de Roca and Rio Salceda."Win or lose, participants must field all six stags.The "no fight" rule is not allowed," said pit manager Renato Shio.

Derby at Elorde's

THE MUCH-AWAITED ANNIVERSARY 4-COCK derby at the Elorde Cockpit Stadium in Sucat Road, Parañaque, is scheduled Tuesday starting at 3 p.m.

Promoted by businessman/sportsman Johnny Elorde, this derby is in celebration of the cockpit's 14th year and offers a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Pot money is pegged at P8,800 with the handler and the gaffer of the winning entry receiving P20,000 and P10,000, respectively.

For inquiries, call 8264463, 8259385 and 8250625 or 0915-3712032 and 0910-4500222.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Kambro (3), Tower Of Strength (5), Uncle Bunk (4)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—City Of Dreams/Imperal Ballot (1), Lokey's Way (3), Boom Boom Boom (7), Imax (6)
Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Lady Cugat (6), Lucky B Lucky (5), Mamaya (3), Mercuno (2)
Race 4—(Tri)—Marque (3), Lilupwithdiamonds (4), Dream Cross/Spectacular Play (2)
Race 5—(Tri)—Anonymous/Indelible Ink (4), Eroumax (3), Unopposed (5)
Race 6—(Ort/Tri)—Express Strike (1), Join The Saints (3), Kate Alex (6), St. Emilion (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Real Spicy/Wild Orchid (2), Glory and Honour/Drama Belle (7), La Tienne (3), Ever Mine Now (5), Great Emma (11)
Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—El Terrible (9), Golden Song (8), Formidable Ella (1), Scud Missile (6), Hok Kee Hok (7)
Race 9—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Golden Sutter/Enjoy Me (7), Treasured Ack (8), Macho Man (6), EJ Magic (3), Legendary (5)
Race 10—(Ort/Tri)—Mr. Gee (5), Do Re Mi (2), Bullish Dream (7), Coat Of Arms (3)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Lord Elgene (8), Magic Key (6), Ilocos Pride (5), Money For Rap (2), Royal Heiress (3)
Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—Ray Moon Star/Violeta's Secret (7), Ravishing Rally (1), Iron Hand (2), Sweet Peanut (6)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Red Storm (4), Born's Born's (13), Play It Again/God Is Good (7), Cash Mc Call (3), Sovereign Dancer (5), Queen Of Gaia (6)

Tigresses seek finals slot anew

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS can end Ateneo's championship aspiration with a win today in the final semifinal playdate of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

But it is easier said than done as the Lady Eagles have proven their mastery over the pernnial UAAP heavyweights with a win over the Tigresses last Oct. 21. Ateneo coach Ronald Dulay is himself confident his wards can duplicate that victory when they clash anew at 5 p.m.

"We played good against UST the last time," said Dulay, who watched the Tigresses yield the first finals slot to the San Sebastian College Lady Stags last Friday. "We are more familiar with their moves (than San Sebastian) so I think we'll have an easier time against them."

An Ateneo win would give it a playoff bonus against UST for winning three of its four semifinal matches, an incentive designed to give lower-ranked squads a chance to make the best-of-three championship series.

But if UST manages to avenge its 25-22, 22-25, 25-23, 19-25, 6-15 elimination round defeat, the defending UAAP champion secures its second consecutive finals appearance.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	9	1
UST	8	2
Ateneo	7	3
Adamson	5	6
La Salle	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
3 p.m.—SSC vs La Salle
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST

It will also be a rematch of the first conference finals won by UST via a sweep.

San Sebastian barged into the finals first after stopping UST, 25-19, 23-25, 25-17, 25-21, two days ago. Had UST won that match and even if San Sebastian beats La Salle in today's 3 p.m. first game for 9-2 records, the Tigresses could afford to lose to the Lady Eagles because of a superior quotient.

As it is, San Sebastian now has the higher quotient because of that victory and can take it easy against deposed champion La Salle.

Thai import Kesinee Lithawat made 32 points when Ateneo beat UST. Dulay said his guest player studies their opponents' games diligently. "She uses her experience and is an all-around player."

Romina S. Austria

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Riner, Ekshibarova forge Smart-ITF tennis championship showdown

NICOLE RINER OF SWITZERLAND SHOOK OFF THE EFFECTS OF A minor illness and ousted eighth seed Chang Kai-chen of Taiwan, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday in the semifinals of the Smart-PLDT ITF Women's Circuit Week 2 at the Manila Polo Club clay courts in Makati City.

The 17-year-old Riner guns for the title today against second seed Vlada Ekshibarova of Uzbekistan, who polished off seventh seed Ling Zhang of Hong Kong, 6-4, 6-4, in the other semifinal pairing.

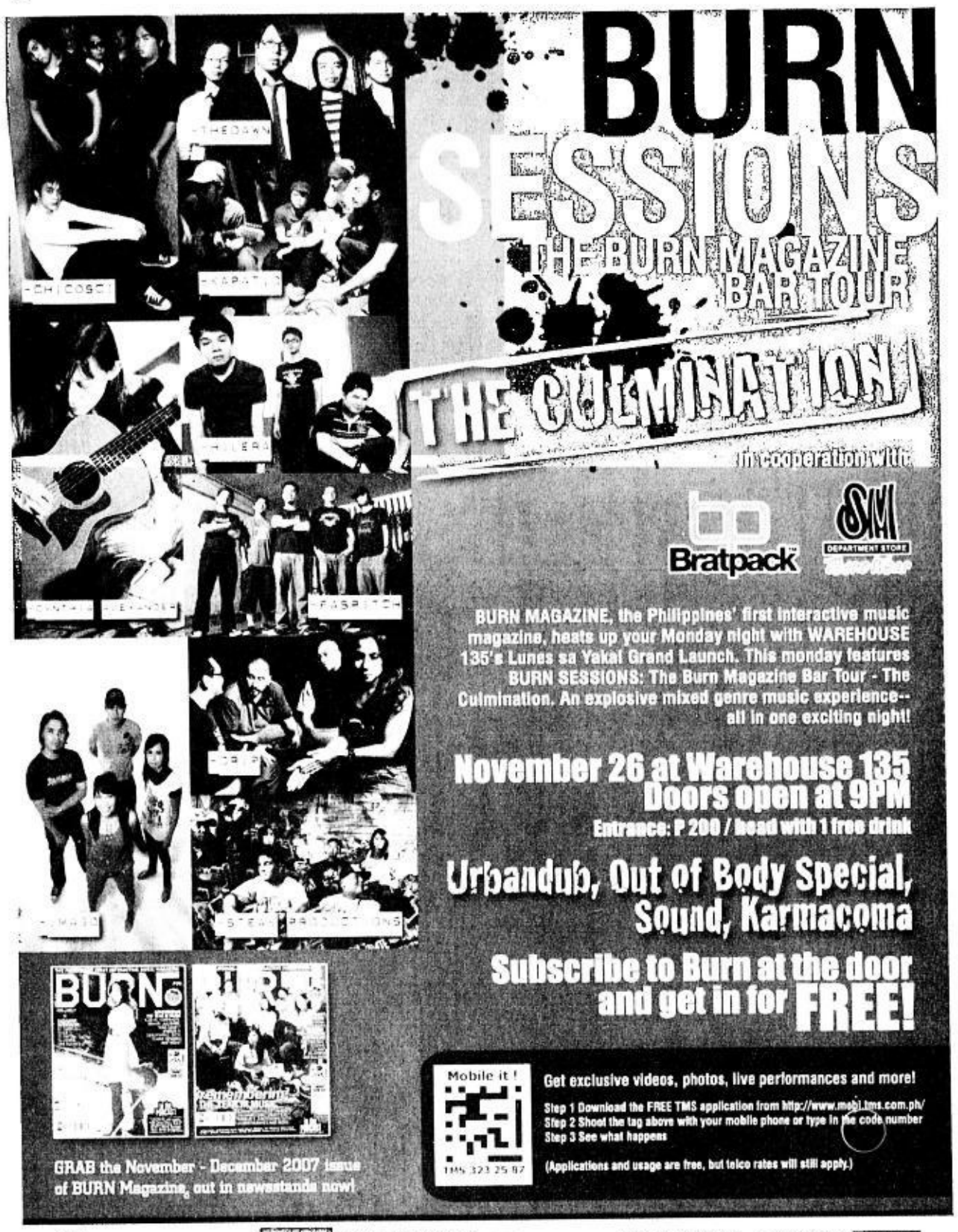
The 18-year-old Ekshibarova, who sent top local Czarina Mae Arevalo packing in the quarterfinals, again summoned her strong serves and powerful forehands to reach the finals in just her initial stint here.

Riner, bothered by a throat infection, displayed a strong baseline game in the third set to nullify 10 double faults.

"It was harder playing with her this time because I [was] not really fit [today]," said Riner. "But I just hung in there and tried my best to play again in the finals."

Marc Anthony Reyes

RINER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Mayorga spoils Vargas retirement party

LOS ANGELES—RICARDO MAYORGA KNOCKED DOWN FERnando Vargas in the first and 11th rounds to capture a majority decision here Friday in a duel of former world champions, sending Vargas to retirement in defeat. AFP

Jones: From grace to disgrace

MONACO—MARION JONES WAS FORmally disqualified on Friday from all competitions since Sept 1. 2000, including the Sydney Olympics where she won five medals, after admitting last month to taking banned drugs.

The International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) governing council ruled that Jones' results be annulled after she confessed to taking the designer steroid tetrahydrogestrinone before the 2000 Games.

Jones won in the 100, 200 and 4x400 meters relay and bronze in the long jump and 4x100 relay in Sydney. The Council would also seek the disqualification of the US women's 4x100 and 4x400 meter relay teams. *Reuters*

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Celts trip Lakers; Wizards triumph

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS improved their NBA-leading record to 10-1 and remained unbeaten at home this season with a convincing 107-94 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.

Kevin Garnett led the resurgent Celtics with 21 points and 11 rebounds and Kendrick Perkins also scored 21 points and had nine rebounds for Boston, which won just 24 games last season.

There was an electric atmosphere in the stands reminiscent of the 1980s, when the Celtics and Lakers were the dominant teams in the NBA. From 1980-88, the Lakers won five titles and the Celtics three, meeting in the finals three times in four years.

Pierce had 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Celtics, while Ray Allen contributed 18 points

Kobe Bryant was booed most of the night and was taunted by chants of "Beat L.A.!" but still led the Lakers with 28 points.

The Golden State Warriors beat the Washington Wizards 123-115 in a game that featured rare double triple-doubles.

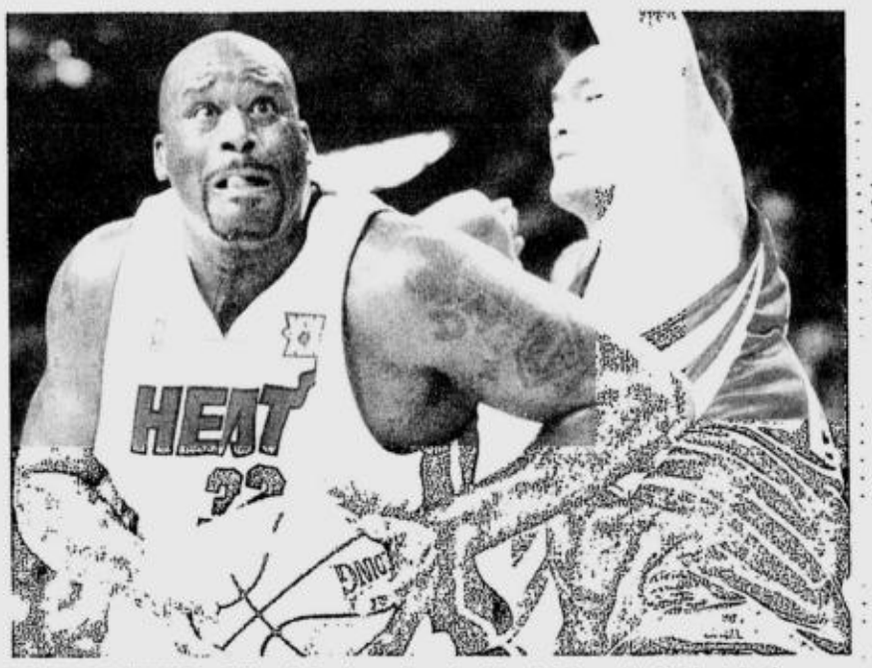
Baron Davis had 33 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds for Golden State, while Caron Butler had 26 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Washington.

The Detroit Pistons improved to a perfect 4-0 at home with an 83-78 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Miami Heat won for the first time at home this season, downing the Houston Rockets 98-91. Dwyane Wade had 31 points and Shaquille O'Neal added season highs of 26 points and 14 rebounds for Miami.

The Dallas Mavericks lost for just the third time in 12 games, yielding to the Indiana Pacers, 111-107.

Tim Duncan had 28 points as the San Antonio Spurs improved to 11-2 overall with a 101-88 win over the Memphis Grizzlies. *Reuters*


THE ROCKETS' Yao Ming defends against the Heat's Shaquille O'Neal (left). REUTERS

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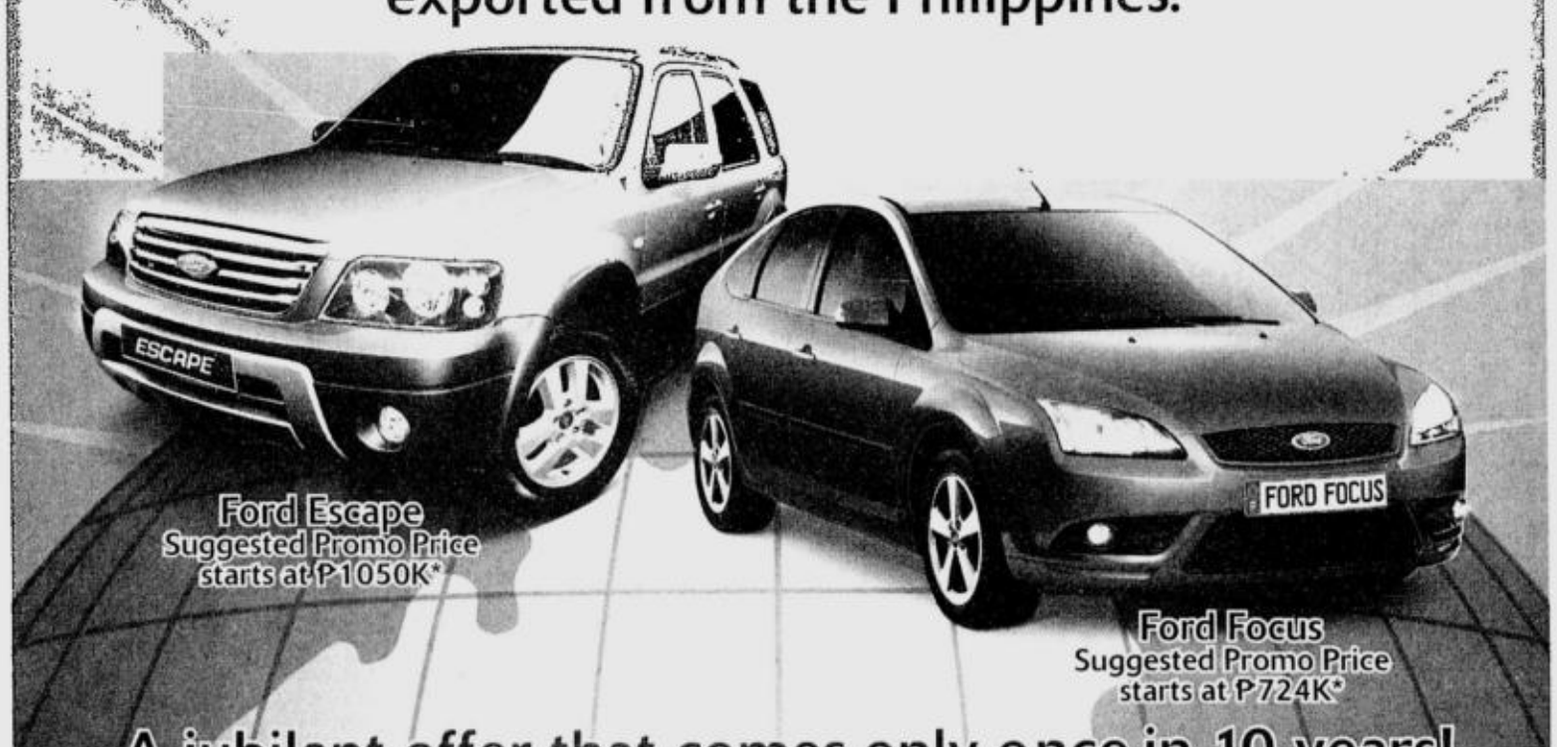
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Tagaytay-Spring five blasts Indonesians

TAGAYTAY CITY—TAGAYTAY-Spring Cooking Oil trounced the Indonesia Stadium dribblers, 84-66, Friday night at the start of the 2007 Tagaytay-NBC International Invitational Cup at the Tolentino Sports and Activity Center here.

Nino Marquez paced the hosts with 20 points while Arwin Siamet led the visitors with 15 markers.

The Indonesians led at 10-4 before Marquez, Nani Epondulan and Ariel de Castro ignited the offense of the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

Later, Manny Pacquiao's MP Gensan Pacman beat the NBL Selection of Malaysia, 84-67.

The scores:

Tagaytay-Spring (84)—Marquez 20, Epondulan 10, Tajonera 10, De Castro 9, Cuenca 8, Villamin 7, Guiyab 5, Quiambao 4, L. Reyes 4, M. Reyes 3, Capobres 3.

Indonesia (66)—Siamet 15, Maruty 12, Budianto 9, Rarung 8, Widiatmo 8, Kasneer 7, Tambayong 3, Ramli 2, Pattikawa 2.

Quarters: 25-17, 50-28, 69-45, 84-66

Gensan (84)—Ramos 20, Recustodio 17, Medalla 10, Daja 9, Locsin 5, Menor 4, Deligero 4, Dennison 4, Rubi 3, Tadena 2, Lagare 2, Farachilen 2, Coronado 2.

Malaysia (67)—Wee 24, Sanz 15, Chin 8, Gamboa 7, Tan 6, Ng 4, Lai 2, Na 1.

Quarters: 12-12, 3 1-30, 54-53, 84-67

Sharks edge Unibikers for 5th straight victory

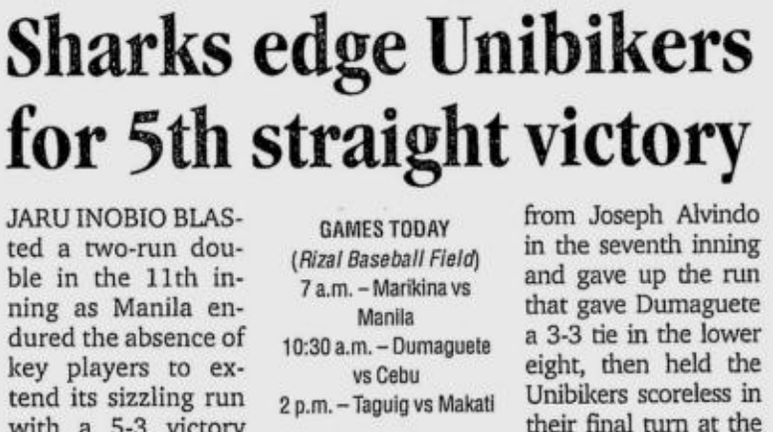
JARU INOBIO BLASted a two-run double in the 11th inning as Manila endured the absence of key players to extend its sizzling run with a 5-3 victory over Dumaguete yesterday in Baseball Philippines' Series 2 at the Rizal baseball field.

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Baseball Field*)
7 a.m. – Marikina vs Manila
10:30 a.m. – Dumaguete vs Cebu
2 p.m. – Taguig vs Makati

Inobio doubled off relief pitcher Jay Aranzazo to score Justin Torio and Jake Ilao and lift the Sharks to their fifth straight win after dropping their first two games.

Romeo Jasmin, who took over from Joseph Alvindo in the seventh inning and gave up the run that gave Dumaguete a 3-3 tie in the lower eight, then held the Unibikers scoreless in their final turn at the plate.

Top hurler Charlie Labrador, who helped key the Sharks' romp, and three others were recently pulled out of the team to join the Nationals in their quest to retain the gold medal in the 24th Southeast Asian Games next month in Thailand. *Marc Anthony Reyes*


FINISHER: Milo Marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho with Nestle Philippines Chief Finance Officer Peter Noszek before the start of the Milo 10K race, ruled by Cresenciano Sabal and Flordeliza Carreon, Sunday at the Luneta Park. Noztek finished the race in 49:17.

Yakult 10-miler registration opens

REGISTRATION FOR THE 17TH EDITION OF THE ANNUAL YAKULT 10 MILER slated for Dec. 9 at the Cultural Center Complex ground in Pasay City is now open. This was announced by race organizer Rudy Biscocho yesterday.

Interested runners and enthusiasts may register at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P150 for the 3K, 5K, and 16K (10 miles) events. Registration ends on Dec. 4.

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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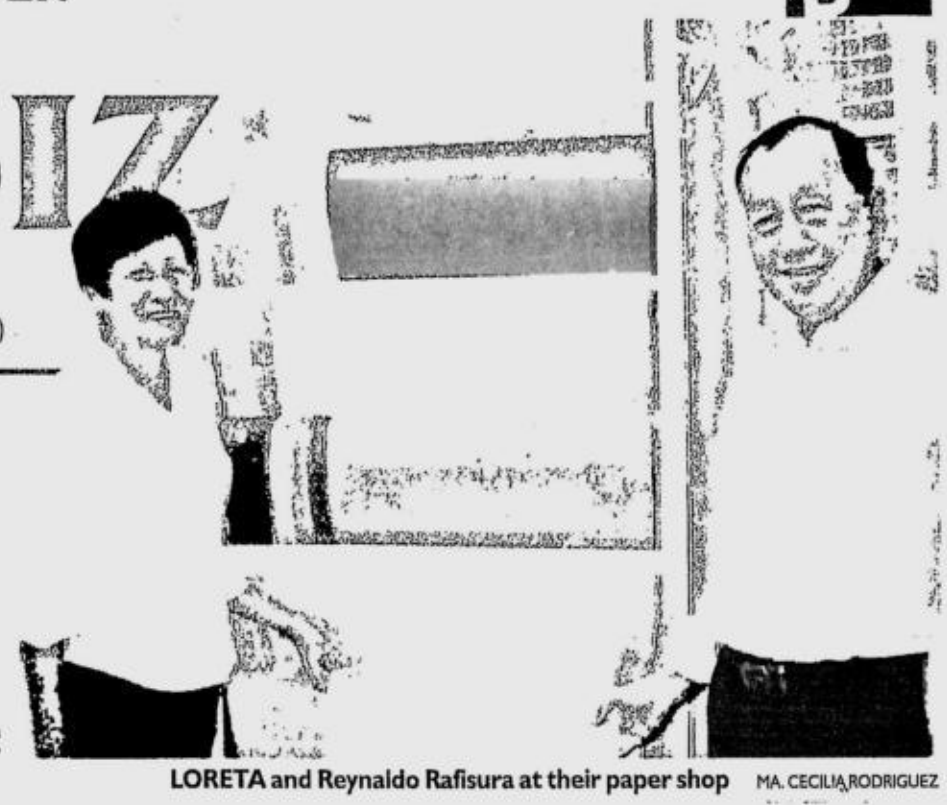
'Successful ventures can also put people first'

Salay Paper founder works hard to push for fair trade



LORETA and Reynaldo Rafisura at their paper shop MA. CECILIA RODRIGUEZ

SALAY handmade paper products

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Inquirer Mindanao

MISAMIS ORIENTAL—Nurse-turned-entrepreneur Loreta Rafisura of the famed Salay Handmade Paper, Inc. was exuberant upon hearing the talk of former Socio-Economic Secretary Cielito Habito at the Asian Economic Forum for Solidarity Economy held in Manila last October.

Habito talked extensively about the "solidarity economy," optimistically predicting that "a more caring economy is indeed possible ... the ideal of an economy that exemplifies that Filipino concept of *bayanihan*."

She praised the talk to be very inspiring for entrepreneurs who have been struggling to have business and social responsibility meet halfway. As a participant to the regional gathering, Loreta is not a stranger to solidarity economy as she has been practicing and nurturing the values of fair trade for decades.

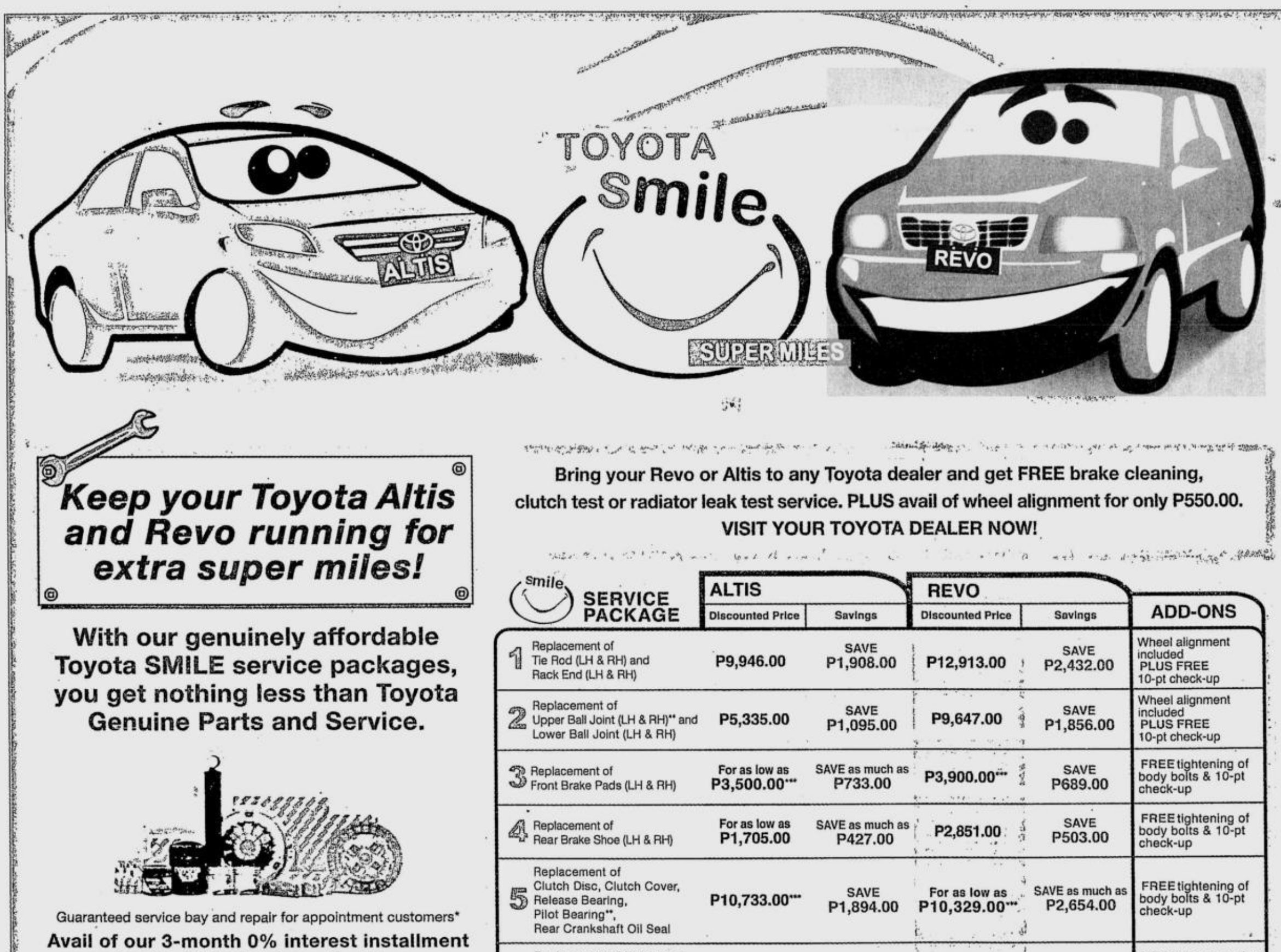
Fair trade is the core principle of solidarity economy. Fair trade means producing high quality products while taking care of your employees and the environment, and selling these items at fair prices. The international fair traders association (IFTA) states that "more than just trading; it proves that greater justice in world trade is possible. It highlights the need for change in the rules and practice of conventional trade and shows how a successful business can also put people first."

There is a growing number of buyers who want to only buy from companies that practice fair trade. This is particularly true for the European market.

Salay Handmade Paper Industry Inc. (SHAPII) has been showcased all over the world as a major SME (small and medium enterprise) player in the Philippines with a great success story about fair trade.

It is now known as the producer of top quality handmade paper products exported to Europe and other parts of the globe. Browsed on the Internet, SHAPII can easily

SUCCESSFUL/ B2



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7 Replacement of Timing Belt, Idler Bearing 1 & 2, Front Crankshaft Oil Seal and Front Camshaft Oil Seal (For Revo w/ 2L engine only)	N/A	N/A	P10,271.00	SAVE P1,813.00	FREE tightening of body bolts and 10-pt check-up

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TOYOTA moving forward

Oil firm fuels hope with village school

"I WAS A NON-READER. However, I come to learn this so-called reading intervention program. As a result I learn how to read and gradually, to comprehend," Grade 4 pupil Rosalia Gampung narrated.

Gampung went on to thank various donors—the Conrado Alcantara Foundation Inc. (CAFI), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the USAID—"in behalf of my classmates."

"We are deeply indebted. If not for them none of these would be possible and also to Petron who gave us three classrooms," Gampung added. "That will surely arouse the interest of the pupils and motivate us to study harder."

It was a blissful Monday (Nov. 19) for Hadji Musa Elementary School in Barangay Kapatan and the whole community.

The day was the inauguration of the school building and tree-planting activity along the gullies of the school grounds.

With the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID)-Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (Equalls), local government units and the private sector, the school heralds a "fuel of hope" for Sarangani.

"Today we have planted the trees for success," Gov. Migs Dominguez said.

The governor assured "all our partners that we in the community will ensure that the seeds planted today will bear fruits of opportunities that will ensure the children of this community which will eventually become the key out of poverty."

For his part, Nicasio Alcantara, Petron Corp. chair and chief executive officer, said: "We hope that our contributions will inspire the community to work together in support of education."

Alcantara reaffirmed the company's commitment to go beyond school buildings and scholarship programs by helping to enhance the capability of Mindanao educators to teach English, Math and Science.

This commitment for Mindanao was echoed by Elzadia Washington, USAID deputy mission director.

"I'd like to reiterate our commitment. Our commitment of peace in the Mindanao region, our commitment to prosperity, and our commitment to partnership," Washington said.

She pointed out the USAID administration in Washington had committed to "triple our partnerships with the private sectors and we're looking forward to work with all other institutions including the academe."

USAID's infrastructure program, Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), will continue for the next five years while its educational assistance through Equalls will go on for the next four years, according to Washington.

Dulcesimo Alfafara, principal of Hadji Musa Elementary School, said: "I cannot express what is my feeling today since this is just a matter of a dream that has come true."

Petron, which has built 20 schools in Mindanao, also donated a three-classroom building at Glan's Pangyan Elementary School in 2005 as part of its Adopt-a-School program.

Petron's Tulong Aral Project has also made possible for the underprivileged children to go to school.

The PBSP, CAFI, Habitat for Humanity Inc., and Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation Inc., assist Petron in its Adopt-a-School Program.

(Sarangani Information Office/RGP)

THE COASTAL village of Sabangan in San Fabian, Pangasinan, is a beehive of activity courtesy of the dried fish "tuyo" industry.

What's fishy and salty and dominates Filipinos' breakfast tables?

Tuyo spurs economic activity in coastal village

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon
Photos by Ray Zambrano

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—Combinations like tapsilog (tapa, sinangag, itlog) and longsilog (longganisa, sinangag, itlog) are the typical breakfast fares in restaurants and fast-food chains.

But "tuyo" (dried salted herring), the so-called poor man's fish, continues to dominate the breakfast tables of many Filipino families.

The coastal village of Sabangan has embraced the taste and distinctive smell of tuyo, with almost all villagers involved in the dried fish industry either as entrepreneurs or workers.

The industry started in the village about 30 years ago, says Ariel de Guzman, 35, one of those engaged in the business. He and his wife, Malou, started 11 years ago and have provided jobs for their village mates.

On a typical day in Sabangan, people of all ages are busy doing their share in ensuring that the industry thrives.

Groups wash the fish while others take care of spreading them on bamboo slats for sun drying. Another group sorts the dried fish and packages them.

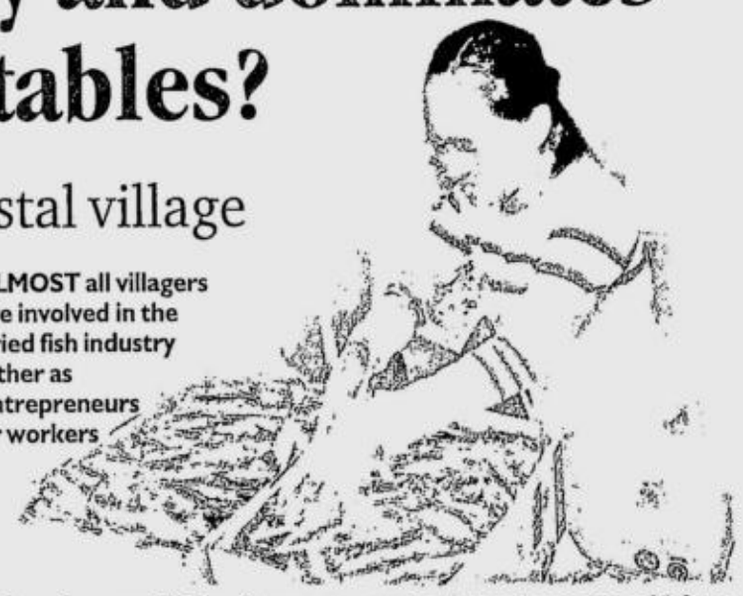
"There are no *istambay* (idle residents) here," De Guzman says. His 14 workers are paid by the number of tubs of fish (about 30 kilograms) that they dry and pack.

But while Sabangan faces the Lingayen Gulf, the herrings dried here do not come from the gulf.

De Guzman says the volume of herring harvested from the gulf was not enough to keep the industry going.

Their supplies come from the Navotas fish port in Metro Manila. Every two days, trucks from the village go to Navotas where they buy herring.

"We buy the fresh fish and put salt on them. The fish are soaked in salt for at least 12 hours. Then we wash them several times here to remove the extra salt before we dry them under the sun," De Guzman says.



ALMOST all villagers are involved in the dried fish industry either as entrepreneurs or workers

He said they do not use other preservatives in their product except salt.

There was hardly any fly hovering over the fish left in the sun to dry.

It was cloudy when the INQUIRER visited the village recently, but De Guzman says he was not worried as long as it did not rain.

"It's okay because the fish can be air-dried, too," he says.

What makes tuyo coming from this village distinctive is that it is lighter in color and less salty.

Depending on the price of fresh herring at the Navotas market, tuyo here are sold from P50 to P80 a kilogram.

De Guzman says tuyo are classified into *siksikan* (with scales or "premium"), BM (or big-medium) and the TR (or tuyo reject) or those without heads or tails or have holes on their bodies.

De Guzman markets his product in Baguio City, Mt. Province, and the different towns and cities of Pangasinan.

He says sometimes, he is also able to buy other kinds of fish for drying in Malabon, like the *espada* (cutlass fish), pensola, *salayginto* (yellow-striped crevalle) and *tulis*.

But he says the herring remains as their best seller.

'Successful ventures can also put people first'

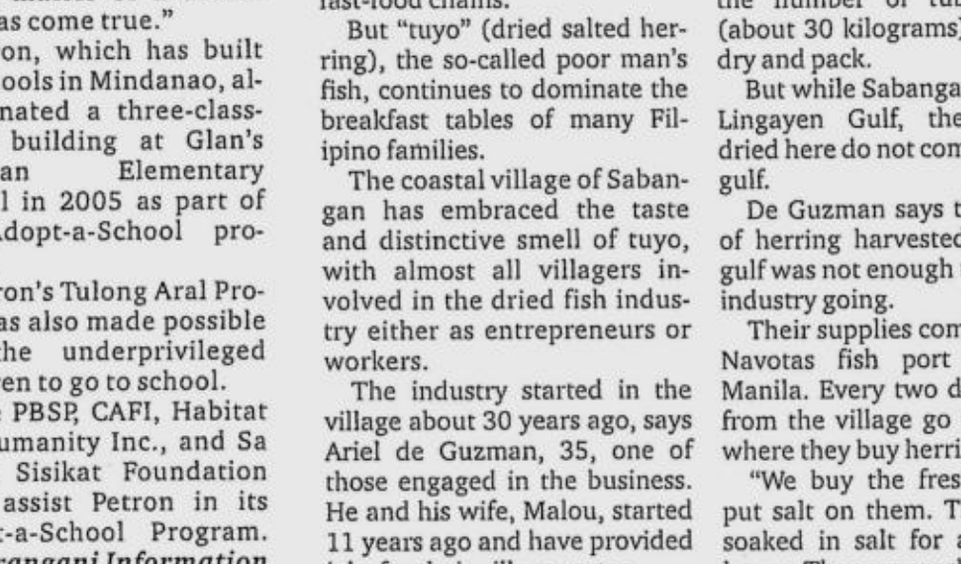
From page B1

pass as one of the leading handmade paper industries in the globe, with big time clients Marks and Spencer and other European retail giants. In fact, in 2006, almost 50 percent of SHAPII's market is in Europe, 30 percent in North America, 8 percent in Japan and 6 percent in other countries.

Loreta attributes the company's success in the export business to its adherence to the principles of fair trade. Most of its clients are themselves members of Ifta which has been in the global forefront of promoting and helping industries, even small ones like SHAPII, in the field of fair trade.

For example, a Canada-based group calling itself "Ten Thousand Villages," which buys and sells fairly-traded products from around the globe, has been a long-time and loyal patron of SHAPII products.

Loreta admits that without the support of Ifta and its member companies, SHAPII would have had difficulty in tiding over their first years as a backyard enterprise.



THE COMPANY gives livelihood to poor families in Salay.

Imparting her paper story has now been a vocation for Loreta, who usually speaks before big international gatherings such as the Asian Economic Forum to convince other entrepreneurs to go into fair trade.

And what a persuasive story she has.

Nurse Loreta and husband Dr. Reynaldo Rafisura were an ordinary middle class couple living in the quiet, far-flung town of Salay, Misamis Oriental.

In 1987, as clashes between the rebels and military troops displaced many of Salay's upland folks, the Rafisura couple was quick to help out and tried to find ways to give the victims long-term relief from poverty.

Having attended a livelihood seminar, Reynaldo decided to adopt what he learned about making handmade paper using cogon grass (scientific name: Imperata cylindrica encantata) that thrive in their town.

The couple made this a livelihood project under the People's Economic Council-Salay, a people's organization that they lead.

An old chicken barn at the back of the Rafisura residence became the first production area of 10 handmade paper workers who stayed on with the Rafisuras despite the group's meager capital of P6,000.

Finished products were peddled by Loreta herself in Cagayan de Oro City, a two-hour drive from Salay.

"I was sickly then so Reynaldo agreed to drive me in his old Volkswagen and we went around the city to peddle the paper to friends and later on to gift shops, which ordered by consignment. One day, we realized we had no money anymore even for my children's food and school needs because my husband could not work regularly. I decided to go on my own and it was really tiring, but I persevered," recounts Loreta of their lowly beginnings.

Perseverance paid off and eventually, after a year of working to improve their products and joining trade fairs, the couple, together with the remaining paper makers, rejoiced in their first earnings.

In 1990, Loreta decided to separate from PEC-Salay and wanted to establish a cooperative. For lack of money, the Rafisura couple settled to registering SHAPII as a corporation, but promised to run the company like a cooperative, where profit-sharing and labor equity are practiced.

> Fair trade means producing high quality products while taking care of your employees and the environment, and selling these items at fair prices

HEART-SHAPED paper box

"We were not actually putting up a business for profit, all we wanted was to give regular employment to the people of Salay and help them break away from poverty," says Loreta as she describes SHAPII as a little candle in the dark.

But for most Salay folks, the small handmade paper shop has given them hope of progress they never imagined.

It was in 1996 when this small handicraft enterprise became the first fair trader in Mindanao.

"People from the Global Technology Search whom my son met in a seminar pointed out that what we were doing was actually fair trade. We did not know then what it was. I told them we were only doing our Christian duties of helping others," narrates Loreta.

Soon, international groups invited Loreta abroad to talk on doing business the fair trade way.

True to the principles of fair trade, the condition of both the town and people of Salay improved as SHAPII grew. Aside from directly employing 257 workers, it now also provides livelihood to over 50 families in Salay.

SHAPII has become the biggest livelihood provider in town, next to the local government. Its foundation and cooperative ensure that the people are benefiting from the progress that SHAPII has achieved through the years.

"After 17 years, we've finally fulfilled what we originally wanted to put up—a foundation and a cooperative which takes care of our social responsibility to the people of Salay," says Loreta.

The SHAPII Foundation now provides scholarship to poor but deserving Salay students and the SHAPII Multipurpose Cooperative operates a small cafeteria and runs several livelihood projects independently.

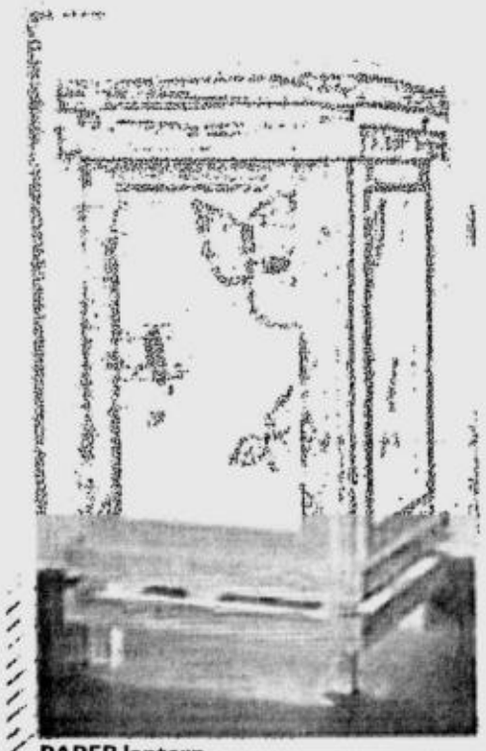
Loreta modestly admits that they can be a good inspiration to other SMEs.

"Sadly, there are only 16 of us in the country that practice fair trade," says Loreta.

In her speeches and presentations, she would exhort entrepreneurs to try engaging in fair trade.

"As far as I'm concerned, the only way for SMEs to survive today is by going into fair trade," she said as she echoed Habito's statement that propelling economic progress begins with social equity.

"Business with justice, with compassion, that is the fair trade way. We need to start the movement now. Small as we are, we will slowly but surely achieve sustainable development if the people around us grow as we grow," stresses Loreta with a tone of commitment.



PAPER lantern

Relational refueling

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

If you're a leader, you have to initiate, which means you often have to be the first one to rise and say, "Let's go"

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES ENERGY.

It doesn't necessarily call for the kind of energy needed to run a marathon or take care of 10 two-year-olds for an hour. But for me, and perhaps for you, leading requires a great deal of mental and emotional vigor.

Think about it. If you're a leader, you have to initiate, which means you often have to be the first one to rise and say, "Let's go." You frequently have to say, "Let's go," to people who don't want to go, which means you have to persuade them that they need to follow you.

You have to make tough calls that directly affect the lives of other people. You have to solve complex problems. You have to serve as a mediator, negotiator, counselor, encourager and teacher to the people on your team. And so on.

The work of leading is intellectually stimulating and personally fulfilling—if it weren't, who would want to do it? But it can also be incredibly draining, which is why we all need regular refueling.

Leaders re-energize in various ways. Some read. Some cook. Some fish. Some play tennis—or racquetball, or basketball or golf. Those activities all have their place. But in my life, I also get a great deal of energy from certain personal relationships.

Not all relationships fall into this category, mind you. Some people can literally suck the life right out of you if you're not careful. Sometimes you can avoid such relationships, but many times you can't. That makes energizing relationships even more critical.

Do you have people in your life who energize you when the work of leading has sapped your strength and zapped your spirit? If you've never thought of your relationships in that way, perhaps you should start. To help you begin the process, here are eight types of relationships that energize me.

1. My family.

Now, I realize that maintaining healthy connections with close relatives also requires a great deal of energy. You cannot expect to be a good spouse or parent if you're not willing to devote a significant amount of time and effort to the relationship. But a strong relationship with a spouse, for example, can also be a tremendous source of energy for a leader.

My wife, Margaret, gives me so much in this regard. I can get compliments from a dozen people after a speaking engagement, but if she says, "Great job," it's worth more than all the other comments combined.

2. Creative people.

I love being around creative people because it stimulates my thinking and recharges my own creative batteries. I also just enjoy observing how their minds work.

3. Successful people.

When I meet such individuals, I often ask them to tell me how they made it to the top. Not surprisingly, their stories are usually punctuated by examples of hardship and adversity. I'm inspired when I hear how people overcome opposition, persevere through challenges and maneuver around obstacles to accomplish their goals.

4. My team.

My favorite day of the month is what we call "Presidents' Day." On this day, I sit down with the people who run my three companies and we review what's happening in our organization. I'm always invigorated when I leave these meetings because my team members—those men and women who are really out there doing the job—are making me so much better than I could ever hope to be on my own.

5. Good thinkers.

By this, I don't necessarily mean smart people. I'm not real smart, but I love to think. And I love to spend time with people who enjoy the intellectual give and take of a good conversation. Thinking people don't talk about other people. They talk about principles, concepts and ideas. That energizes me.

6. Interesting people.

Let's face it. Some people are interesting, and others are not. A person doesn't have to be rich or powerful to be interesting. A keen mind, an interest in others and a love of learning all determine whether a person is interesting or not far more than his title or the size of her investment portfolio.

7. Encouragers.

When you see these people coming, you automatically know they're going to lift you up. They just can't help it; it's part of their genetic code. Every leader needs a relationship with someone like this.

8. "Fun" people.

These folks love life, and their enthusiasm is contagious.

I used to do a considerable amount of counseling, and if there's one thing I learned from those interactions, it's that our relationships very often define who we are and what we can become. So if you want to become a more effective leader, foster relationships with people who stimulate your thinking, make you laugh, encourage you and inspire you. Your energy level depends upon it.

For information on John Maxwell 's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 God bless!

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Korea's rise atop RP's travel chart

KOREA'S RISE AS THE PHILIPPINES' top source of foreign tourists didn't just happen.

To Korean travel agent Ki Tae Kim, it was a long and arduous task that began in 1989.

"At that time, very few Koreans knew about the Philippines," Kim recalls. "I would conduct a slide presentation to a group of 15 ladies during the day and another group of 15 men in the evening after office hours. I would show them Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, El Nido, Club Paradise and even Dakak in Mindanao."

Humbly, Kim narrated how he went from office to office with his slide projector just to show the beautiful images of the Philippines to prospective clients.

"Even as early as 1989, I already felt that the Philippines was an ideal place for Koreans to visit or take their families for a vacation. So I waited for long hours till my clients found the time for my presentation," Kim adds.

Eighteen years later, Kim, this time as president of Philippine Airlines in Korea, enjoys the support of the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) and members of the country's tourism industry.

It began in 2001 when he cosponsored with the DOT the first sales mission of Filipino marketing executives to Seoul. The mission was so successful that it became a yearly event since then.

Now on its sixth year, the just-concluded 2007 sales mission had 41 delegates from the private sector and three from the DOT—Region VII director Dawnie Roa, project manager Gwendolyn Batoon and Team Korea head Pam Samaniego. The private sector delegates represented various tourism establishments in Manila, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan and Davao, among others.

Thus, Kim no longer has to do it all alone. Most importantly, he is now reaping the benefits of his pioneering efforts, with Korean arrivals reaching 572,133 to top the Philippines' list of foreign tourists last year.

The influx of Korean tourists continues, generating demand that necessitates a corresponding increase in PAL flights between the two countries.

"Starting December, PAL will increase its flights to Cebu from Seoul to four a day. And starting January, direct flights from Jeju to Manila will commence," Kim reveals.

The flight increase is quite an urgent necessity. The first three quarters of the current year saw Korean arrivals posting a whopping 16.3-percent growth from 406,480 to 472,711 on the way to the DOT Team Korea's full-year target of 600,000.

"Korean arrivals now account for a huge 20.9 percent of the total Philippines inbound travel, followed by USA with 19.1 percent and Japan 13.4 percent," says Tourism Attache Maricon Basco-Ebron in her speech at the opening of the sales mission in Seoul.

At the sidelines of the sales pitches during the mission, Ebron bared in an interview the marketing efforts that brought Korean arrivals to its phenomenal scale.

"The turning point came in 2004 when Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano took over the helm of the DOT and organized it into country marketing teams, each with its own market-specific strategies and objectives. Like the other teams, Team Korea had to identify its priority market segments and match them with the appropriate product mix, which made us come out with our eight anchor destinations.

"In the case of Korea, we are now capitalizing on our pretty strong grip of our priority market segments—holiday seekers, honeymooners, students and special interest groups—to expand our coverage to both ends of the market spectrum.

"All these involve a menu of complementing marketing activities that are calculated to generate demand and warrant a corresponding increase in airline seats and tourism investments to beef up the supply side. The DOT-PAL sales mission, university campus road shows and various other marketing events are examples of such activities that enhance our market presence and visibility, invigorate our tourism brand, and develop new markets," adds Ebron.

"It (marketing) isn't just about promoting a brand as a matter of routine. You've got to be very sensitive to the market, particularly the emerging consumer preferences, industry practice and many other subtle nuances of the trade. One must be fast, innovative and should know the market trends. Thus, your work program must be enhanced year after year if you want to be ahead of the competition," Ebron points out.

All these activities, however, require a lot of hard work and vision, which Kim knows only too well.

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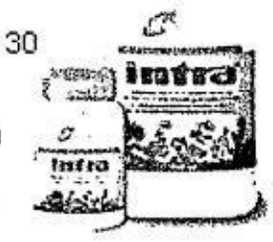

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Sunday BIZ

SHOPPING malls and "tiangges" prepare their wares for the Christmas season as early as November. PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

'Tis the best Christmas in 20 years

Retailers expect robust sales with dollars from OFWs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

RISING OIL PRICES, POLITICAL BICKERing and the weakening dollar are not getting in the way of the Christmas buying season this year.

In fact, some retail companies have predicted that this year will be the best Christmas season in 20 years, because of the influx of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and a generally buoyant economy.

Marivic Arugay, marketing and operations head of Festival Supermall, tells the INQUIRER that the mall is anticipating an increase in both sales and traffic.

"The season always brings excitement not just for the public, but the mall as well. Based on previous years, the mall has witnessed a steady increase [in sales and traffic] during this season," Arugay says.

Wilson Lim Jr., business development manager of Waltermart, adds that Filipinos seem to be buying earlier than usual this year, probably to avoid the Christmas rush.

"More OFWs are sending their money as early as November in order to still enjoy good conversion rate for their dollars," adds Jojo de Guzman, Waltermart assistant vice president for operations.

"Come December, more *balikbayans* are expected to come over and this will again be a bonus to the industry. With more money now and yet more money to come toward Christmas, the retail industry is expected to enjoy its best Christmas ever in 20 years," De Guzman adds.

This optimistic view shared by others in the retail industry only means that the shopping scene will be busier than ever, and not just in malls but in bargain centers as well.

FILIPINOS buy decors earlier than usual this year

BARGAIN centers are very busy this year.

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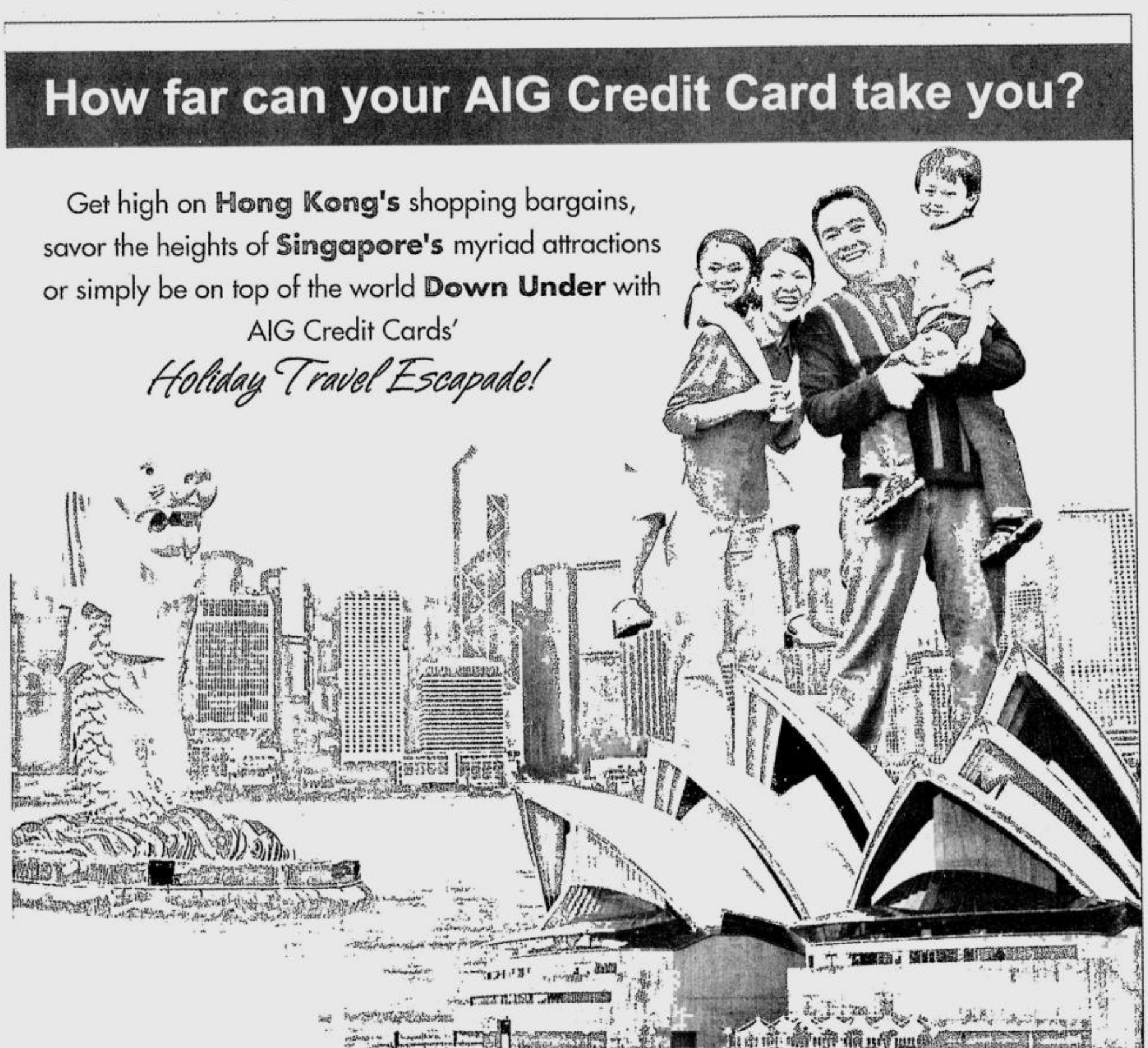

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LITTLE GYM GUESTS. Winners Ronald Suarez and daughter Kiara and Lizzie Tolentino with "Enchanted" stars Amy Adams and Dempsey

"American Idol" 2005 champion Carrie Underwood

PRICELESS photo of Patrick Dempsey "McDreamy" with Sea Princess.

Some enchanted evening!

Since I was in my Sea Princess fantasy costume, dreamy Patrick Dempsey joked that I must have had some suitcase to fly all the way from the Philippines to Hollywood

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY, bombastic stars and bodacious fans! Welcome to Hollywood!

Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I would ever be invited to a premier of a Disney movie and mingle with the film's superstars at the after-party. But it did happen and last week I flew off to Tinseltown to watch "Enchanted" at the El Capitan Theater on Hollywood Boulevard.

In a wonderful tie-up with Disney, The Little Gym, a premier child-development facility, held a raffle among its kids for an all-expense-paid trip to Hollywood for this new feature film.

My 2-year-old **Athena** is actively enjoying one of the excellent programs of The Little Gym (www.thelittlegym.com.ph). Their high standards of music, programs and curriculum development, combined with competent teacher services, truly nurture all the life-skill areas of growing children.

Their philosophy is to treat children with dignity and respect through physical, mental, social, emotional and cognitive development.

That may seem a whole lot of exposure for a 2-year-old but the environment is constantly blasted with encouragement so the kids learn while having fun.

Athena goes to the branch at Bonifacio Technology Center at The Fort (tel. 8151735). There are two other branches at El Pueblo Real de Manila in Pasig and BMW Autozentrum Center in Alabang.

The raffle was won by student Enzo Suarez, together with his family and teacher, Paolo Marzan. In true fairytale fashion, though, The Little Gym owner Helen Limcaoco offered me a slot to tag along with the group. Well, who can say no to an offer like that?

The best way to travel to the US West Coast is still via Philippine Airlines. The straight flight leaves at night, allowing one to sleep through the flight and wake up ready for shopping at Target.

In my case, I flew to San Francisco to spend a couple of days with my eldest son, **Bryan**, who just found a job with an Internet company there.

Upon arrival, we checked out O'Neil's Irish Pub on Ghirardelli Square in the city. The new pub is right next to the Giant's baseball stadium and is fast becoming the team's hangout.

Bryan and I flew to Los Angeles via Virgin America, a new airline with state-of-the-art amenities and leather seats. Each seat even has individual, web-ready monitors, perfect for e-mailing and surfing in the sky. And that's in economy class! Hmmm. Time for PAL's best and brightest to start thinking of their upgrades!

At LAX airport, we were met by a superstretch limo. It was just the thing to make one feel like a star, as the limo cruised past

SOME/ C3

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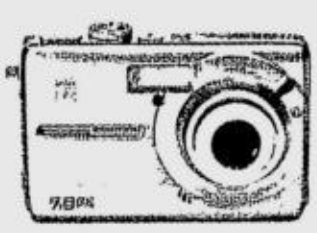

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King Louie

Compiled by Fran Katigbak

KING, ICON, MAESTRO, THE MASTER.

Thus is the dazzling reputation Sunday Lifestyle Exclusives guest editor Louie Ysmael has earned with nearly three decades in the nightlife scene as host and entrepreneur.

He has been through phenomenal success to tragic mishap. From a perennial night owl (club-hopping to become known as well as be in the know), he has mellowed down into the lifestyle of family man and restaurateur.

Perhaps what has remained constant is his ability to be the gracious host, to treat guests like they were masters of his household. After all, how does one learn to please one's subjects if one refuses to eat, drink and be merry with them?

Here are brief accounts of what it is like to party with "King Louie."

PHOTO:RODEL ROTONI

"Memories of partying with Louie Y, especially during New York's glory days, get me all sentimental. Those were some of the best party nights ever.

"I hope it isn't just our age but partying these [days] doesn't happen much like that anymore! 54, The Palladium, Xenon, Area, Le Jardin, Club A, Louie Y's, Circuit, Velvet Slum, Coco Banana ... our kids and other younger people would be so envious! Am just happy we're still neighbors in Greenbelt 2 ... surely keeps us young."—MARGARITA FORES

"Louie is the best! He makes you feel like you're the owner, not [just] a guest in his parties.

"He makes you feel really special. During my wedding in Baguio, *nasira yung kotse niya* on the way and he took the bus for me. We were all laughing at him when he arrived. Who would ever imagine Louie would take the bus to Baguio?

"Oh, the things he can do for you. *Lahat sila* came with their best cars and while he came in *naka*-bus. *O di ba, ang galing*. My wedding was a four-day event—he could have gone home after the first day because of the car trouble, but he attended everything."—AGA MUHLACH

"It's been fun [partying with Louie] for the last 30 years ... When we were younger, in the '70s-'80s, we drank more and were the ultimate hedonists. When I say party, it can mean go out on dates, or go to clubs, private homes, restos, bars. Laughing is a major part of our evening and so is the wine for me and vodka for Louie.

"Louie is now happily married. Now that he's older, he just manages the business and parties less. I, on the other hand, can also have fun with my 19-year-old Isabelle! But now, when Louie and I party, it's 'Hi, pops and Tito Louie' or 'Hi, *titos*!' Ugh!"—BONG DAZA

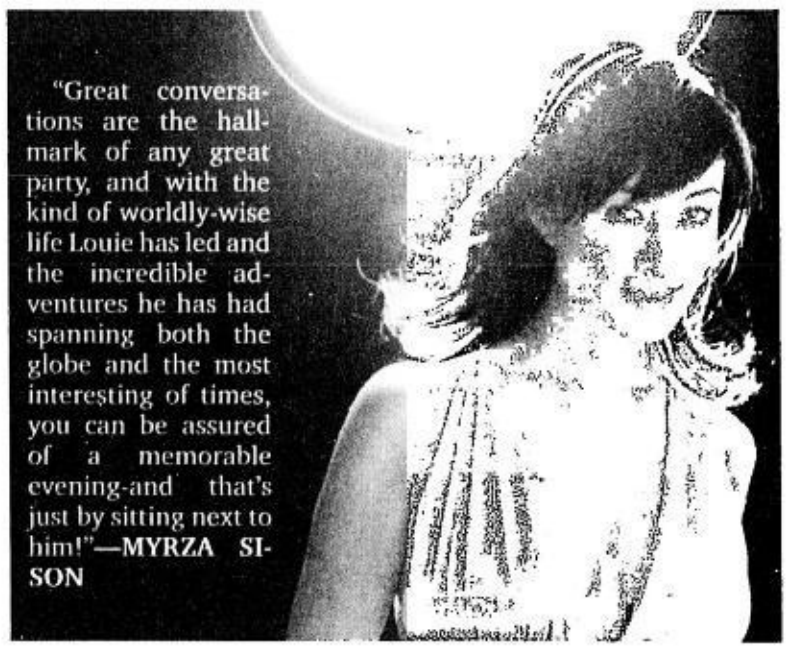
"Partying with Louie Y is truly experiential. He is the maestro of the nightlife, the real king, the real deal! Louie has the ability to sincerely embrace anyone, without the baggage and warped sense of entitlement so pervasive seemingly today. When you are partying with him, by osmosis ... you will imbibe the same positive vibe. He is a true icon of Manila nightlife, and he does this with affecting grace and style."—JOJI DINGCONG

"I will always remember his clubs: Louie Y's, Isis and, most especially, Stargazer. I was about 15 years old when Stargazer was THE place to be. I always had a hard time getting in, maybe because of my age or limited budget; but somehow, I managed to and I had the most fun! Today, Louie Y still reigns supreme as the one and only King of the nightlife scene."—ANTON SAN DIEGO

"Partying with Louie Y defines the true meaning of party! A lot of fun, laughter, and rock and roll! Time just flies by without anyone wanting to go home!"
—CHARLIE CARMONA

"Louie is always the most courteous host. He always has a ready smile, he's game! And makes sure your glass is always topped up."
—AMANDA GRIFFIN

"Partying with Louie Y is a blast! He takes good care of you, makes you feel right at home, and you can be assured you're with GREAT company wherever, whenever. As long as he's around, your day or night is set to be a fun and classy one!"
—ISSA LITTON



"Great conversations are the hallmark of any great party, and with the kind of worldly-wise life Louie has led and the incredible adventures he has had spanning both the globe and the most interesting of times, you can be assured of a memorable evening-and that's just by sitting next to him!"—MYRZA SISON

"It was FUN! He knew how to enjoy, throw a party and, most importantly, put people from all over the world together! It was exciting and he was on top of the latest trends and music! He was wild but knew his limits and above all knew everyone who is anyone!"—MARICRIS AND IÑIGO ZOBEL

"I was one of Louie Y's first DJs when he began Stargazer in 1981, joined him in at another legendary nightspot, Euphoria, and it's been 26 years of having the guy as my boss. He may be temperamental at times, but it's just that the guy is so passionate about whatever he sets his sights on. It still makes me wonder how this boss of mine does it.—BOYET SISON

"A party is not a party without Louie Y!"
—MIKE TOLEDO

Jingle, tinsel and caravan

THE COCA-COLA CHRISTMAS CARAvan, a celebration of the Filipino family bonding and togetherness, takes its roots from Coca-Cola's Christmas Meals Campaign which encourages Filipinos to rediscover the magic of Christmas meals spent with the family.

Officials from Coca-Cola and the Araneta Center, as well as players and officials of the Coca-Cola Tigers PBA Team, along with their families and other guests, welcomed the caravan recently.

An entire family served as host of the event—the Magalona family, composed of Francis, Pia, and their children Maxene, Frank, Saab, Elmo Arkin and Clara. They also sang the Francis Magalona classic, "Kaleidoscope World," and danced along to its refashioned rhythm.

The Mandaluyong Children's Choir sang Christmas Carols on stage and their own rendition of the Coca-Cola Kasalo Jingle, a celebratory musical piece that relates how Pinoys keep the Christmas season special by sharing delightful Christmas meals with their families.

The Coca-Cola Ride to Fame winners, composed of champion Ava Jugueta and finalists Daryl Lagos and Qwyncy Siclot sang "O Holy Night" a capela style and danced to the cheerful beats of "Jingle Bell Rock."

The unveiling was led by Coca-Cola Export Corporation's Philippine Business Unit president Kandy Anand, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines CEO David Lyons, Coca-Cola Export's marketing director for Philippine business Chinky Alcedo, and Coca-Cola Bottlers commercial director Jose Mallman

The event was capped with the lighting of the Araneta Center Giant Christmas Tree at 6 p.m. Based on the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree in New York City, it is the tallest Christmas tree in the Philippines, standing almost 80 feet tall and decorated with hundreds of lights, and large baubles and trinkets.

The Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan launch in Araneta Center is the first in the series of caravan visits in the country. This roving Christmas festival is set to visit four key cities, eight towns and close to 300 barangays nationwide, spreading cheer and togetherness and bringing fun games, exciting prizes and concerts to Filipino families.

All a family needs to do is to save their Coca-Cola, Sprite and Royal caps and crowns and use these as currency to enter the caravan site.

Five lucky families per region will also get the chance to play cash games wherein they can win as much as P100,000. And to make the experience even more remarkable, one lucky family will also get the chance to become an instant millionaire when the Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan arrives to their place.

The Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan will be in Baguio on Dec. 1, in Manila on Dec. 8, in Cebu on Dec. 15 and in Davao on Dec. 22.

On one side of the venue were the food booths, which were particularly remarkable because they were manned by celebrity families. Scores of excited guests exchanged their food stubs for delicious merienda and a chance to see their favorite celebrities up close. The celebrity food sellers included Zanjoe Marudo (Zanjoe's Famous BBQ), Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong (De Leon's Pizza Place), Tessa-Prieto Valdes (Tessa's Siomai), Makisig Morales (Makisig's Super Snacks) and the Bb. Pilipinas Beauty Queens (Bb. Bibingka [at Puto Bumbong]) composed of 2005 Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera, 2007 Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Anna Theresa Licaros, 2007 Bb. Pilipinas 1st Runner Up Liezel Verses, 2007 Bb. Pilipinas 2nd Runner Up Abigail Cruz and 2007 Bb. Pilipinas-International Nadia Shami.

There was a parol-making contest. As a tribute to the traditional Filipino artform, participants dressed up their parols, made of curved bamboo spokes and papel de japon, with ornate little trinkets and trappings to beat each other out in the contest that awarded the best parol-makers with handsome cash prizes. In the end, a group of Coca-Cola Tigers, composed of Mark Isip, RJ Rizada and Mark Telan, won first prize. Second prize went to singer Sen Nichols, while TV/movie actor Richard Gomez won the third prize.

SHOPPING at Disney store. Bryan Prieto and girlfriend Jeanine Buenaventura

TWO Princesses in Disney. Sea Princess and Princess Giselle

COSTUME designer Mona May with Little Mermaid Ariel

LA friends Emily and Chot Wong with cute baby Gabby

THE LITTLE Gym group. Pearl Tang, Amy Anievas-Nora and Paolo Marzan with Kelly Avila of Disney Pictures

Some enchanted evening

From page C1

the landmark Hollywood sign on the mountain to deliver us to the Renaissance Holly wood Hotel.

On World Premiere night, I got pre-Hollywood jitters. I got into my princess gown but suddenly wondered whether I should wear my wings and crown. What would Cinderella do?

She would have full faith in her fairy godmother! So I headed for the ball with all my paraphernalia. No carriage was needed since the theater was only a block away.

Our group from Little Gym was met in the lobby by INQUIRER's Man in Hollywood himself, **Ruben Nepales**, accompanied by his lovely wife **Janet**.

Getting to the theater was a story on its own. Just like in "Enchanted," where the fairy-tale princess Giselle pops up in the middle of New York, I had to walk on Hollywood Boulevard in my own humongous gown, which turned out be a traffic-stopper.

But thanks to our couple in Hollywood, who helped with my wings and gown, we finally made it to the El Capitan Theater.

DISNEY characters with INQUIRER's Hollywood correspondent Ruben Nepales, his wife Janet and Sea Princess

ATHENA Valdes flanked by The Little Gym teachers Sarah, Anne-Marie, Louise and LJ. "Enchanted" was the first movie Athena watched in a theater.

CAPT. Jack Sparrow and Cruella de Vil across the El Capitan Theater

ENCHANTED makeup booth at the Enchanted Experience affair

AFTER-PARTY entertainment with the Disney Princesses

LIMO service to Renaissance Hollywood Hotel for Sea Princess and son Bryan

The actual red carpet is spectacular, lined by a multitude of cameras with flashes popping everywhere. VIP guests and show-biz personalities were everywhere! It was like the pages of OK! come to life.

With all this, the movie itself was anti-climactic. It was amazing that the Hollywood crowd applauded even in the midst of the film, not only when the final credits rolled.

The real Enchanted Experience was at the after-party, with all the princesses of Disney World present. They were so happy to pose with me. The rest of the guests asked which part of the movie I was in, to which I would reply, "The sequel."

"Enchanted's" costume designer **Mona May** was delighted with my outfit and asked who made my gown. That was another winning moment for fave couturier **Rajo Laurel**, who actually just embellished the same gown he made for me during the finals of "Celebrity Duets."

Perhaps he will follow **Monique Lhuillier**'s footsteps to Hollywood.

Credit for my full ensemble must also go to jewelry designer **Arnel Papa**, who lent me a beauty-pageant crown. His new shop in Greenbelt 5 has all his magnificent pieces and his Miss Earth crowns can be shown upon request.

Also, **Manny Capulla** contributed a pearl-and-crystal accessory, my bag was a **Bea Valdes** creation, my false eyelashes were Shu Uemura and my hair color was executed by **Victor Ortega**.

Gosh, that's almost as long as the film credits!

The giant tent for the Disney Enchanted Experience was filled with Disney activities, from makeup sessions and dress-up dolls to remote-control driving and rock climbing.

The tent will be open until Jan. 6, so any readers heading to the area could visit www.elcapitantickets.com for tickets.

Thanks to the very well connected and influential Ruben and Janet, I was introduced to all the stars at the after-party.

My evening highlight was not the photo-op with the super good-looking Prince Edward (**James Marsden**), but the one with my real-life crush, **Patrick Dempsey**.

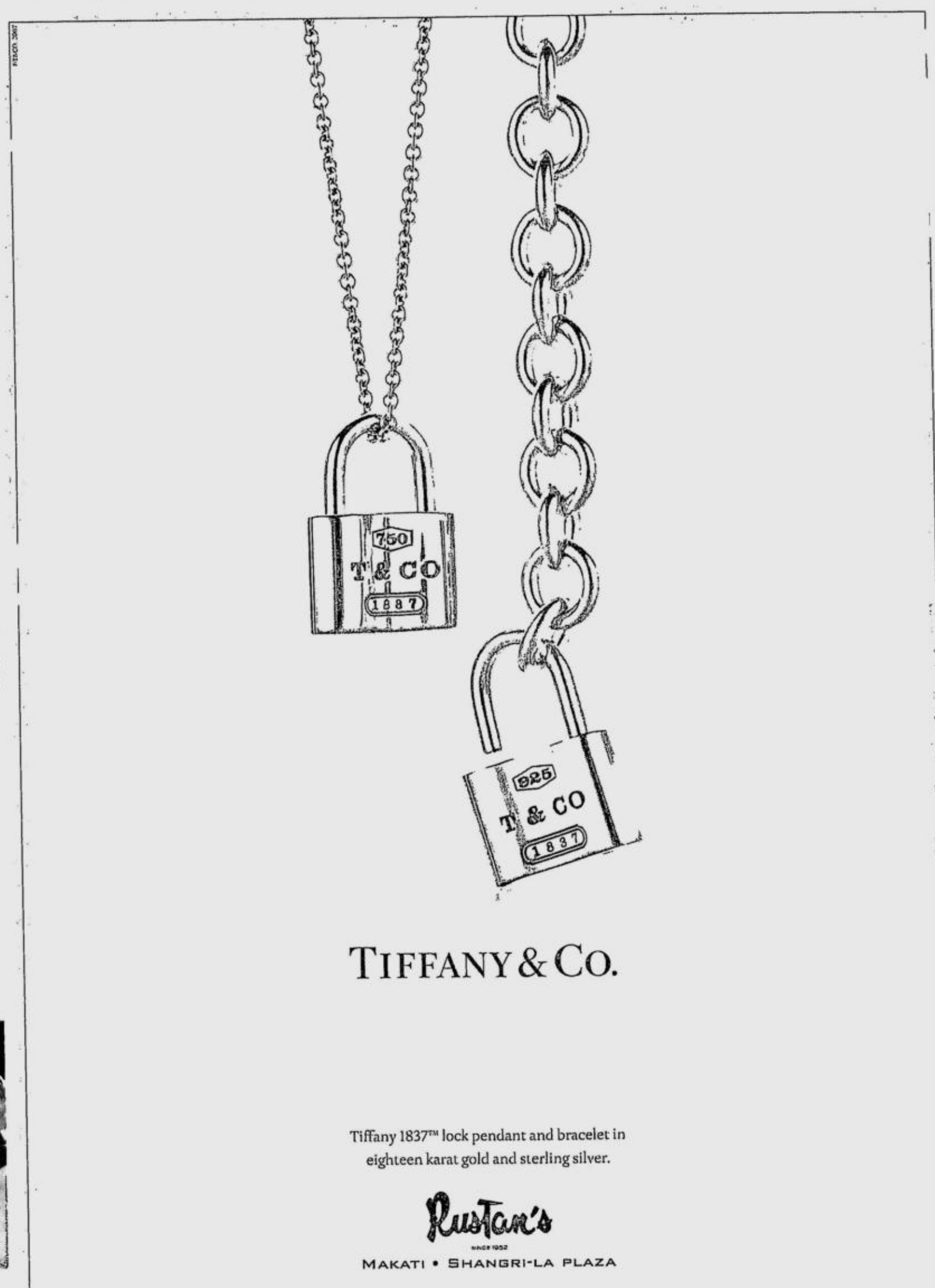
As a fan of Dr. "McDreamy" of "Grey's Anatomy," I was most excited to have my photo taken with him. Patrick even joked that I must have had some suitcase to fly all the way from the Philippines looking like that.

And now I'm finally back home, fresh from the cartoon kingdom of Andalasia and armed with the usual movie premiere loot bags filled with Vera Wang cologne and CD's.

And it's great to be back in our own big city, with our own bright lights, our own bombastic stars and our own bodacious fans. Happily ever after, indeed!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

SLEEK interiors of Virgin America Airlines



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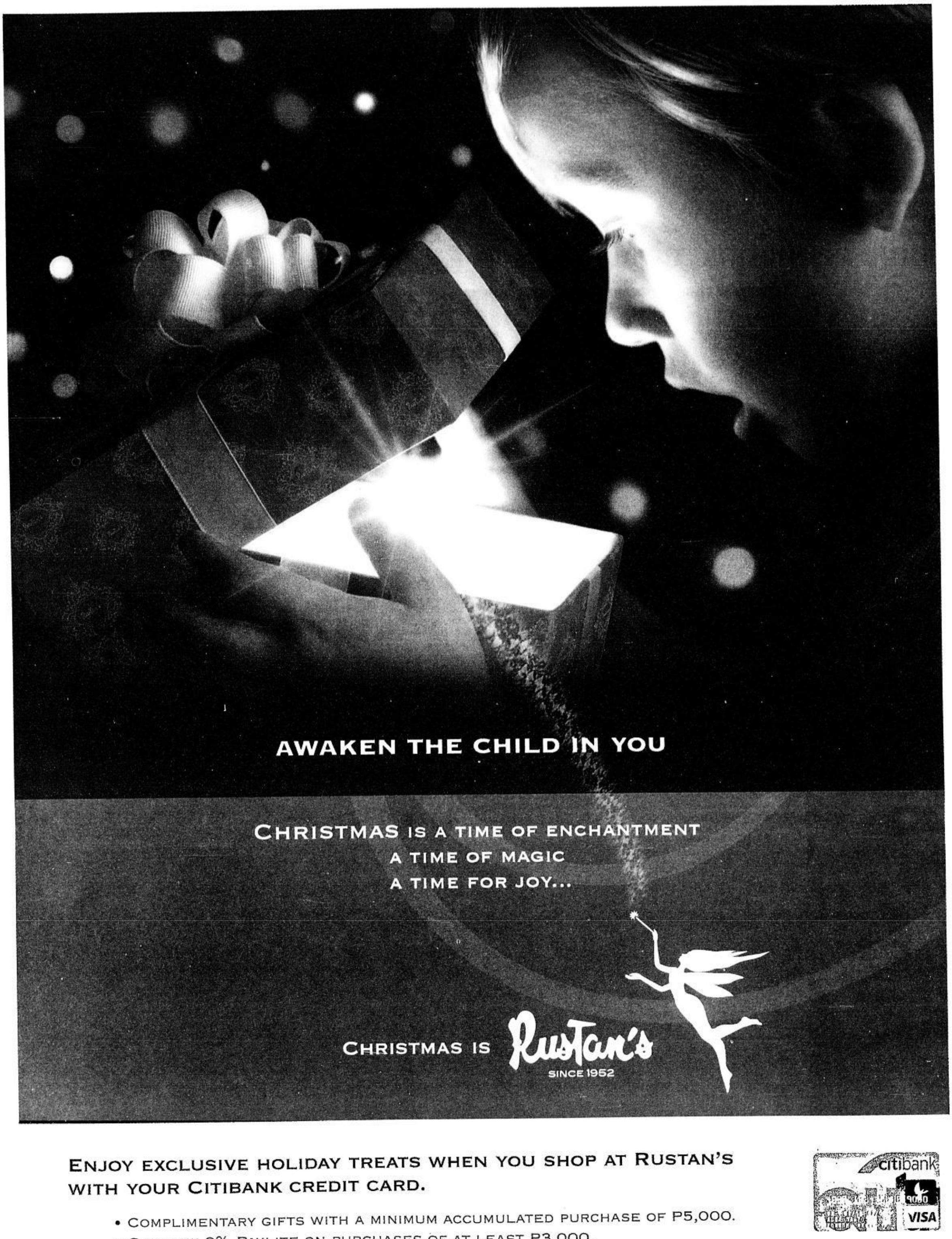

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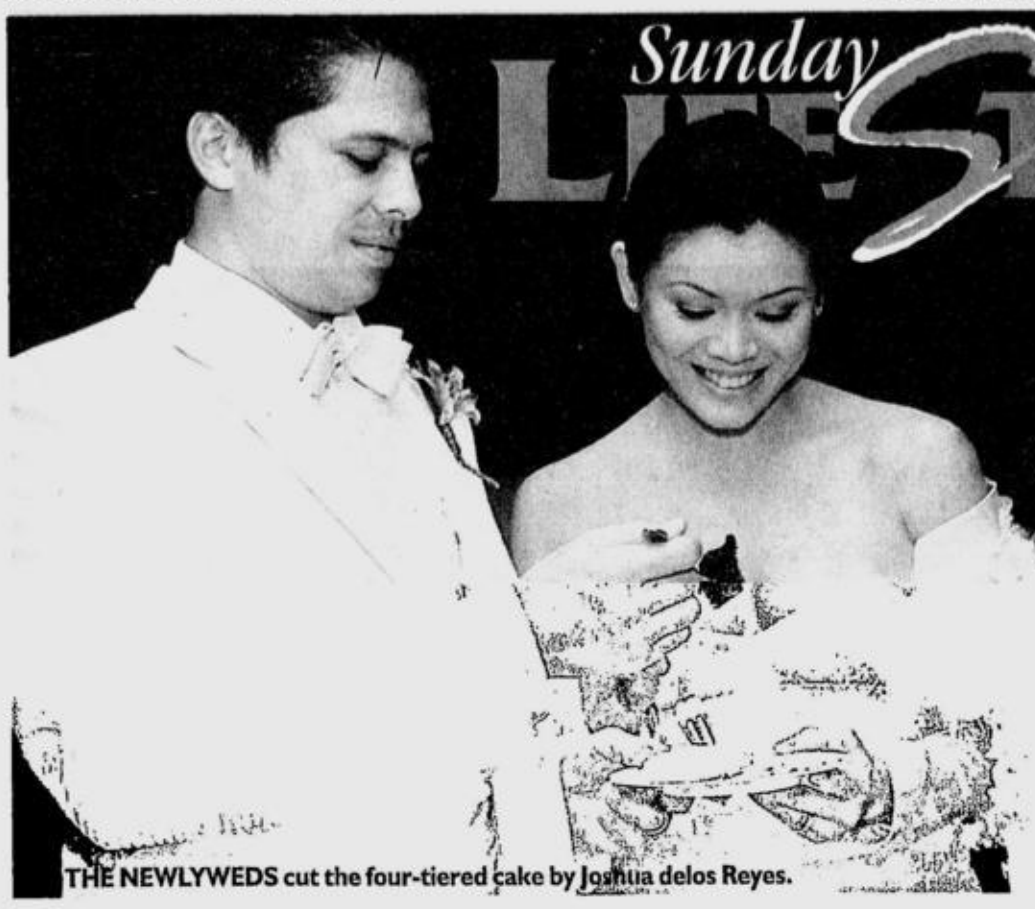

THE NEWLYWEDS cut the four-tiered cake by Joshua delos Reyes.

KAUFMAN-CASTRO NUPTIALS

Romantic wedding at cool garden

By Maurice Arcache

THEIR FANTASTIC ROMANCE started with a side glance that handsome businessman David Kaufman made when he saw pretty-as-a-postcard Mai Castro, a successful interior designer and creator of her own in-demand bag label called Goddess, while they were both with separate companions at an outdoor classical concert in *Manille* five years ago.

ROMANTIC/ D2

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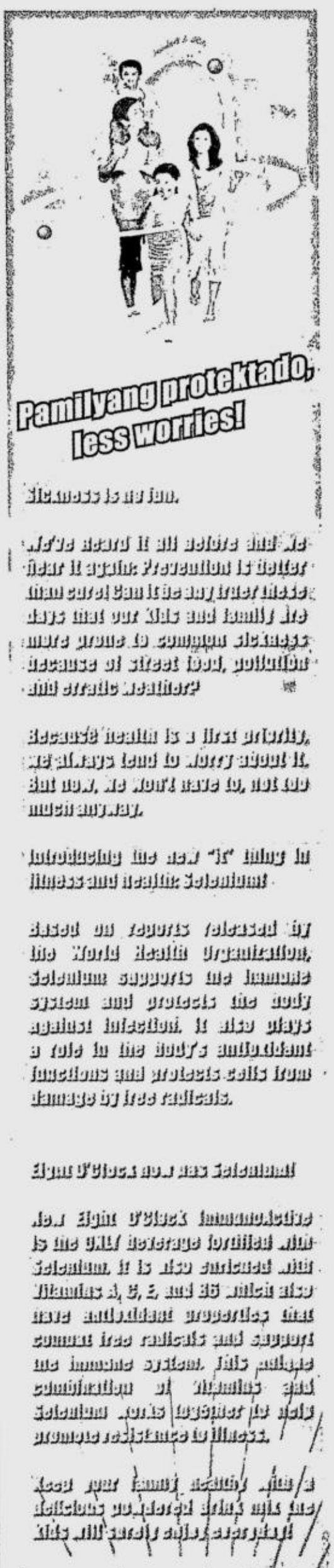

Pamilyang protektado, less worries!

Sickness is no fun.

We've heard it all before and we hear it again: Prevention is better than cure! Can it be any truer these days that our kids and family are more prone to common sickness because of street food, pollution and erratic weather?

Because health is a first priority, we always tend to worry about it. But now, we don't have to, not too much anyway.

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Based on reports released by the World Health Organization, Selenium supports the immune system and protects the body against infection. It also plays a role in the body's antioxidant functions and protects cells from damage by free radicals.

Eight O'Clock now has Selenium!

Our Eight O'Clock ImmunoActive is the only beverage fortified with Selenium. It is also enriched with Vitamins A, C, E, and B6 which also have antioxidant properties that combat free radicals and support the immune system. This unique combination of Vitamins and Selenium work together to help promote resistance to illness.

Keep your family healthy with delicious nutrient drinks mix like Eight O'Clock araw-araw!

NEW!

EIGHT O'CLOCK

ORANGE

Romantic wedding at cool gar

From page D1

David K. was instantly captivated by her beauty, poise and style. But he was sure he would never see her again since he thought she was probably just visiting from Paris or New York.

"Then two weeks later, like a dream, I saw her again at a design exhibit where my stone company was a participant," he recalled. "At that time I said I had to seize the moment and approach her. I am so glad I did, because five years later here we are married and in love."

Mai excitedly explained to me how she felt about her love, life and wedding, dahlings. "David and I prayed and wished for a romantic, intimate and memorable wedding. Only after did we fully realize, how literally, our wish was granted!" she said.

"The wedding was an amazing experience," she said. "We had it at the English garden/bed-and-breakfast of Aunt Sonya's garden. The solemn and moving ceremony was officiated by our church pastor, Joey Bonifacio.

"We had the very talented Nelson Buenaventura and his team to do our hair and makeup. He transformed my bridal entourage and especially myself into a symphony of goddess. David's mom (Cecille K.) and our close friends, Danette Vizmonte and Sheryl Panlilio, coordinated with all our suppliers. Everything ran so smoothly."

Mai continued: "Pido Villanueva, as if by magic, produced a perfect bouquet of my favorite (out-of-stock, out-of-season) white peonies, gathered and wrapped by truffle silk satin ribbon and copper wire. It was lovelier than I had envisaged!"

She added: "My dear friend, the very talented Puey Quiñones, designed my complicated wedding gown, which had to be seen to be understood and believed. Its main feature were different fabrics in varying shades of neutral hues, which included 25 yards of chiffon, cut into tiny strips, and 100 balls of DMC threads cut and individually tied to form the train. The gown was quite heavy. It had to be divided into two parts. An elaborate train evoked a scene from the ballet 'Swan Lake.' Our whole entourage, in their unique outfits also by Puey, surpassed our expectations."

"Our wedding sponsors were a picture of

MR. and Ms David Kaufman in front of the reception area at Sonya's Garden

WITH veil sponsors Debbie Co and Al Kaw

BRIDE with brothers Mike Castro (left) and Manolito (right), and father Ramon

TEARY-EYED David with parents Steve Kaufman an Elizabeth Hook

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THE KAUFMANS: Cecille, David, Mai, Steve, Jj and Sean

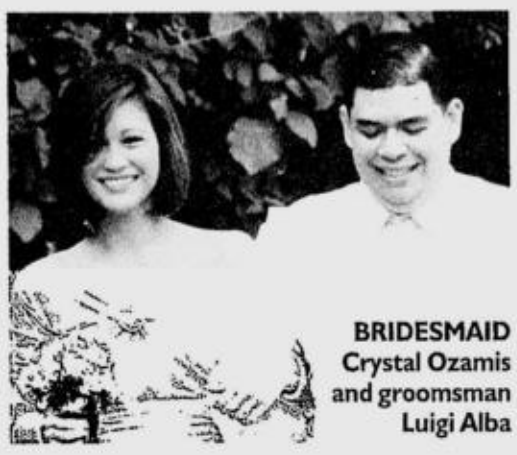
PRETTY flower girls Sonia, Lexi and Gabrielle

WITH godparents architects Dominic Galicia and Tina Periquet-Galicia

BRIDESMAIDS Tina Montinola, Ali Smith, Alyanna Martinez, Kri Sy, and Pam Ayson with the bride

WITH godparents lawyer Andy and Felice Sta. Maria

DANETTE Vizmonte and Robert Yu, cord sponsors



BRIDESMAID Crystal Ozamis and groomsman Luigi Alba

WITH godparents Francisco and Susan Aguilar

Lady's Choice

Mayo Have a White Christmas!

elegance in their formal attire. My beloved father was handsome in a Mandarin-style barong, and so was my waiting groom David in his immaculate, perfectly fitting, off-white tuxedo. I was a very proud and happy bride," Mai said with that look of love in her eyes.

Shimmering

"At the reception, Pido, who had been given only one task, 'to dazzle us,' he did just that," she said. "The Greenhouse was shimmering. It appeared to glow from the many pink and truffle hanging drum lamps that were arrayed, aligned to the gorgeous banquet tables. There were flowers just everywhere, the perfect picture we had wished for. We could not be happier."

For the reception, hosts were the couple's close pals, Ali Smith and Richard Santos. Since during dinner, the bride and groom had expected the temperature to drop, they had their bridesmaids distribute pashmina shawls, which were flown in especially for that day.

Special individual gifts and custom-made mini "Mai" mannequins were given to the bridesmaids, plus personalized gifts that were given to the godparents.

The yummy, eye-catching four-tiered wedding cake was made by Mai's close friend, Joshua de los Reyes. It had pink blossoms, gold beads, cream lace, a three-strand cord, and an inscription from Ecclesiastes 4:12 at the bottom layer: "A three-fold cord is not easily broken." This, to the newlyweds means, "that when God is in our lives, nothing is impossible."

After the cutting of the cake, Mai and David rocked the floor with the traditional Jewish glass-breaking and dancing while singing "Havah Nagila," which was dedicated to David's father.

"Looking back, we recall those who had said that we were asking for the near impossible, to try to achieve our ideal wedding at such short notice," Mai said. "Trusting in God, and confidence that we had the full and unconditional support of friends, family and experts, we never for one moment doubted that our wedding will be wonderful!"

FRUITY MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 cup LC Mayo (1 small 220ml bottle)
1/2 cup condensed milk
1/2 block cream cheese (optional)
4 cups cooked macaroni noodles
1 cup fruit cocktail, drained
2 small red juicy apples, unpeeled and cut into cubes
1/2 block cheddar cheese, cut into cubes

Procedure:

Combine 1 cup LC Mayo with condensed milk and cream cheese. Blend and mix well by hand.

Add 4 cups cooked macaroni salad, fruit cocktail and the apples. Top with cubed cheddar cheese. Chill and serve cold.

CLASSIC CHICKEN MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup LC Mayonnaise
1/4 tsp fine salt
1/8 tsp ground black pepper
2 cups cooked salad macaroni noodles
1/2 cup pineapple tidbits
1/2 cup boiled chicken, cut into cubes
2 tbsp finely chopped carrots
2 tsp finely chopped celery
2 tsp pickle relish
1/2 cup cheese, diced

Procedure:

Combine LC mayo, salt and ground black pepper. Mix well. Add cooked salad macaroni noodles, pineapple tidbits, boiled chicken, chopped carrots,chopped celery and pickle relish. Top with diced cheese.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

IGNACIO GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Diego and **Adelaida Ignacio** will renew their marriage vows on Nov. 24, their 50th anniversary, at the Chapel of St. Benedict, Don Antonio Heights, Commonwealth, QC.

Eric Pineda designed the bridal gown in matte gold silk chiffon and chantilly lace. The gown is cut on the empire and has a ruched bodice traced with champagne toned pailletes.

Reception will follow at the Annapolis Seafood Palace, Greenhills, San Juan.

POSADAS-REYES

Sherwin Z. Posadas, son of Dr. **Saturnino Jr.** and **Lydia Posadas**, will wed **Margie C. Reyes**, daughter of **Mario** (deceased) and **Edna Reyes**, on Jan. 8 at St. John The Evangelist Church, Dagupan City. Reception will follow at City De Luxe Restaurant, Dagupan City.

FLORES-VALERIO

Dr. **Richard Anthony Flores**, son of Dr. **Demetrio** and Dr. **Lourdes Q. Flores**, will wed **Ma. Theresa Valerio**, daughter of **Eduardo** and **Violeta Valerio**, on Dec. 1 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception will be held at the Manila Polo Club, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park.

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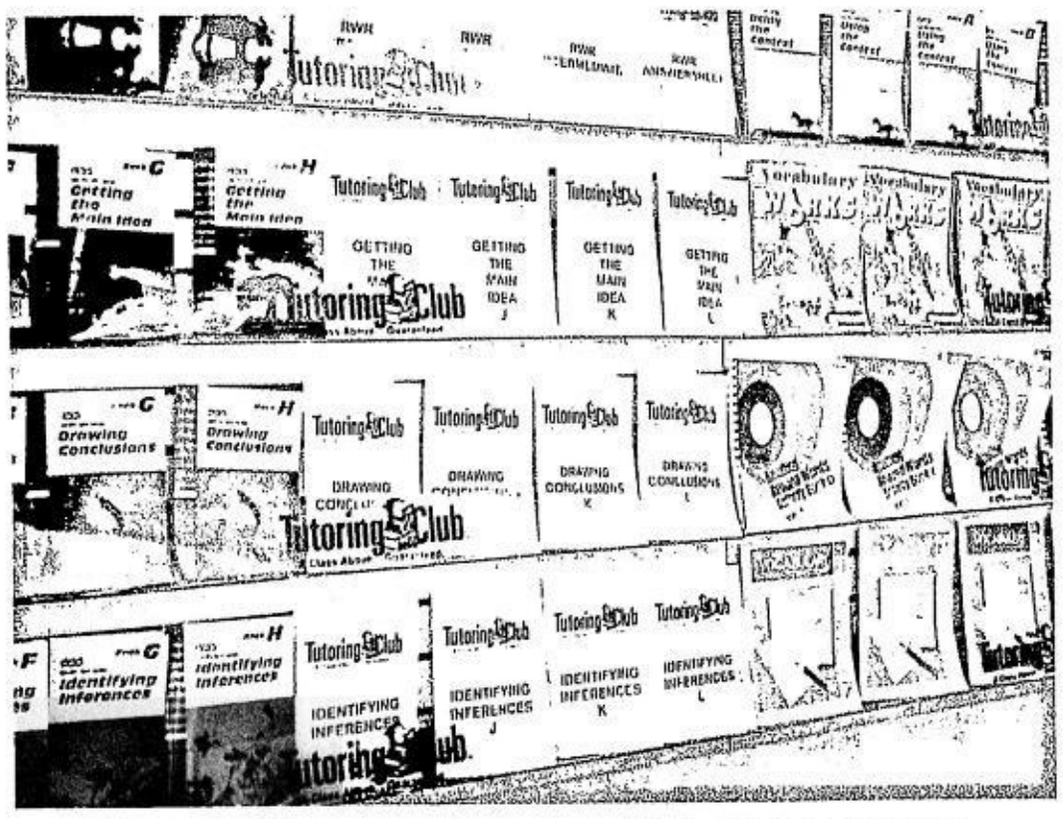


WHETHER a student is low average or above average, Tutoring Club has a systematic approach that suits a slow or a fast learner, says its founder. PHOTOS: RODEL ROTONI

Tutoring with a difference

By Anne A. Jambora

SUCCESS COMES IN MANY forms. But whether it is winning the top plum in the spelling-bee competition or auditioning and grabbing the role for a school play, it is driven by one force: confidence.

It was, in fact, sheer confidence that drove a child, who had consistently struggled his entire school life to push his math grade past the 70s, to achieve a score in the 90s in just two months.

"He went up to 97 from a school grade of 79. The teacher is amazed. He is now raising his hand in class; he became confident. If you think you can do it, you probably can," said Larry Schwartz, founder of Tutoring Club (www.tutoringclub.com).

Tutoring Club offers a unique tutorial system that guarantees to improve a child's skills to at least one full grade level with 32 hours of tutoring. In the Philippines, it has branches at B-5 Unit 2E-12, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig (tel. 8562517, 0917-84TUTOR), and at the Sekai Center on the corner of Madison and Ortigas Avenues, Greenhills (tel. 7128867, 0918-84TUTOR),

"If the child comes here two to four hours per week, we'll raise him up three grade levels in four to six months," Schwartz said.

By the time the child enters fourth grade, his mathematical skills would equal that of a sixth or seventh grader. He's not only ahead of the Math game, a survival skill critical in an increasingly competitive society, but his attitude toward facing challenges will improve dramatically as well, said Schwartz.

Traditional tutoring

The problem with traditional tutorial is the tendency for the tutor to become the child's crutch, quite possibly during his entire basic education. Traditional tutorial services, said Schwartz, is homework-based, meaning tutors begin by looking into the child's homework and working from there. Hence there is a tendency to need a tutor today, tomorrow, forever. It becomes a vicious cycle, and that's because the root cause of the problem has never been diagnosed and addressed.

"Algebra students, for example, just follow the steps in solving a problem from their tutors and repeat the process during school exams but never really understand the concept," said master franchisee Rico Bautista. Simply put, a kid will learn the "hows" but fail to grasp the "whys."

> Tutoring Club endows the learner confidence for her to give up tutoring altogether

Skills Assessment, a diagnostic test, is required upon enrollment, said Bautista. This test will pinpoint the skill gaps of a student and discover the causes behind low academic performance. A college student at the Ateneo de Manila University, continued Bautista, once had a Math skill of a fourth grader. It is no wonder then that she cannot get a passing grade in her college algebra subject.

"If you cannot solve 2/3 divided by ½ there's no way you're gonna do Algebra. The diagnostic test will identify your problems. Everything else that you know we won't touch. We won't waste your time, and we won't waste our time," Bautista said.

Diagnostic

Tutoring Club has devised a computer system that analyzes a child's information and writes off a personal lesson plan based on the child's pace and capacity to learn skills at a time. The tutors then implement what the computer said.

Both the computer and tutor, however, are working up the same ladder with the student. If the student needs to step back a bit, as the computer can specifically identify his/her weakness and strengths in a particular subject, then the tutor repeats the lesson until the student is ready to move up.

Whether a student is low average or above average, Schwartz said, Tutoring Club has a systematic approach that suits a slow or a fast learner. With a ratio of one tutor per three students, learning is enhanced because there is no pressure at all to tackle a problem as quickly as possible.

"Normally tutors stare at the student as s/he nervously fumbles his way through a problem. Here we give you problems to solve, let you do it on your own, and come back to you when you're done," Schwartz said.

LARRY Schwartz

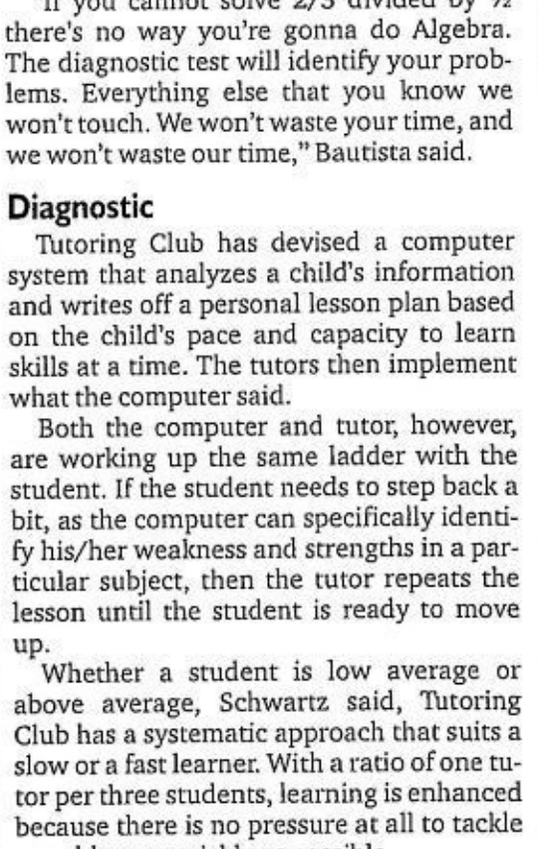
The diagnostic test will also measure the required number of tutorial hours a student will require. (The rate is P500 per hour.) But regardless of how long a student may require the tutorial services, Bautista said students are guaranteed to move up at least one level by the time they're done.

"We do not have a money-back guarantee, but if we said your child will move up three levels in six months then s/he will get there in six months—that's our guarantee," Bautista said.

Schwartz founded the Tutoring Club more than 20 years ago when his son encountered difficulty in his reading skills. Although his son showed improvement, as a businessman Schwartz instinctively look at how effective the tutoring industry was and found it unsatisfactory.

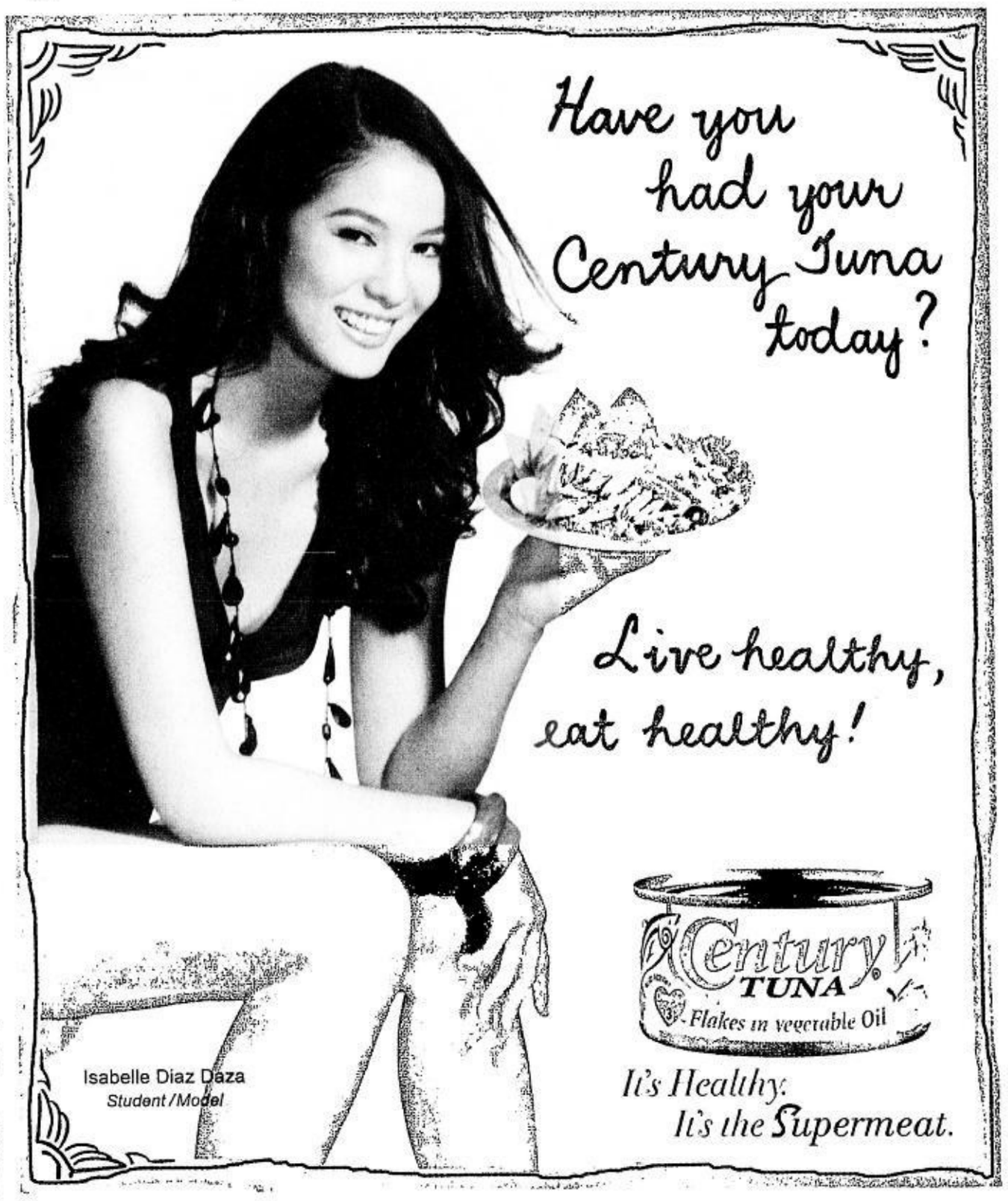
To cut the long story short, he bought the company and devised a new method to contest a traditional tutoring service—one that has been practiced the exact same way since the 1500s, he said.

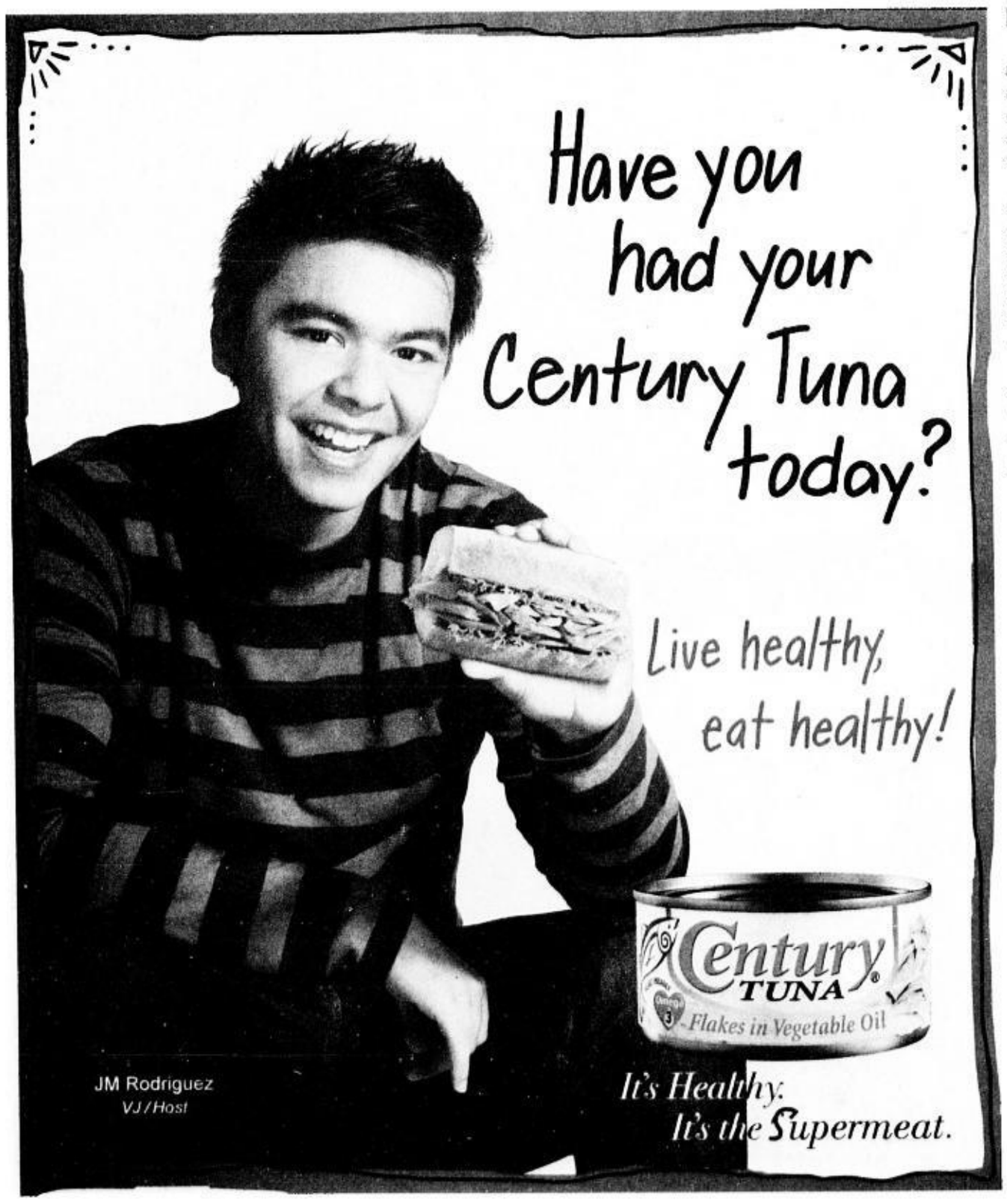
"You simply cannot have a tutor all your life. Everybody uses the tutor as a crutch. It is so much better not to have crutches and walk and run on your own," Schwartz said.



RICO Bautista

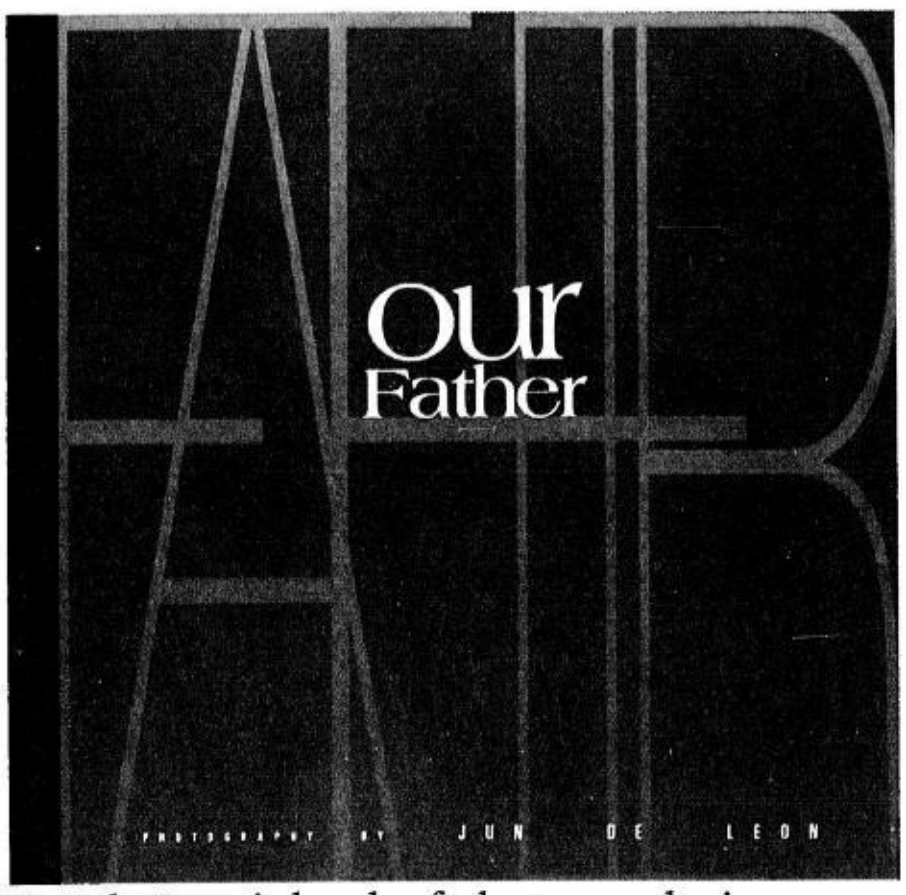
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph





ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Celebrating Dad



Jun de Leon's book of photographs is a heartfelt tribute to fathers.

I ONCE READ SOMEWHERE that it takes much more than testosterone to make a father out of a man. A good father, that is.

Nowadays, fathers are evolving. They have become much more involved in the day to day details of their children's lives. They have grown more affectionate and demonstrative as compared to their counterparts 40, 30 and even 20 years ago.

Statistics show that in the United States part of a new generation of men are redefining fatherhood. The menstuff.org website says that according to census figures, one in four dads takes care of his preschooler during the time the mother is working. The number of children who are raised by a primary care father is now more than two million and counting. By all measures, fathers, even those who work full-time, are more involved in their children's lives than ever before.

The Pinoy dad has changed too, no longer just the breadwinner he has now redefined his role in the family. Twenty-five years ago, not too many dads knew how to change diapers, nor had the inclination or desire to learn how to. Today, countless television ads show a father rocking his child to sleep, offering an adult child fever medicine, and yes, comparing diaper brands with other dads.

Jun de Leon's beautiful coffee-table book "Our Father," profiles 62 Filipino fathers from different generations. It is a given that De Leon's photographs speak volumes in itself, but the heart-rending essays and testimonials written by the subject's children will certainly tug at every parent's heart.

The book is a dream project for De Leon who was separated from his then five-year-old daughter Nina, almost two decades ago. During that period, the idea for a book on fathers germinated and grew in De Leon's mind, as he "picked up the pieces of his life."

De Leon says, "Making this book was every bit of a dream come true. The positive response of the fathers and the impressive support of their families overwhelmed me beyond words."

He adds that as he sat with many of the fathers he shot for the book, "The awesome and insightful learning experiences. Of this, I am now unmistakably certain: I am far from being the perfect father that I want to be, but I will continue this journey. It is a bond that can never be broken." Spoken like a true artist and father.

The book profiles such distinguished fathers as Washington Sycip, Wilfred Uytengsu, Manny Villar, Joey Antonio, Rolando Hortaleza, Charlie Rufino, Donnie Tantoco, Satur Ocampo, Tony Meloto and many more.

In turn, De Leon's daughter Christine has this to say, "If loving unconditionally is to accept a person without judgment then this is how we, his children, love him. It is unconditional because our dad can be impossible, incorrigible, ruthless ... Yet for all the resistance, we have a bond with our dad that far outweighs the tough times. Maybe because we know that he grew up without a father and that he raised us the best way he could."

The book can easily be a manual on what it takes to become an excellent father. Several themes run through the children's responses. A great father is obviously one who teaches character and leads by example. He is one who's not afraid to show affection. He makes his family a priority in spite of a busy schedule. He is someone who passes on the values of faith, family, work discipline and holding on to one's word.

He is quick to discipline but dispenses it in a quiet and dignified manner that makes the lesson stick harder. He loves his wife and his children see this. He is one who walks his talk. Here now, in their own words, is a glimpse into the hearts of some noteworthy fathers, as seen through the eyes of the children who adore them.

"When I was about five years old, my dad would take me to my first school, Creative Play Corner, and on the way to school, he would tell me the most amazing stories.

"He would start a story that he made up for me one day, and then continue for about a week until he'd finished it. Then the next day, he would start a new one again. I still remember that as one of my favorite parts of our morning routine—listening to his interesting and creative stories in the car on my way to school." **—Patxi Jr., 12, on dad Patxi Elizalde**

"Dad advised me, 'When you receive money, 20 percent goes to savings, 10 percent must be for God. You can do what you want with the rest.' This, which I always keep in mind, is one of the most important guiding principles that he has imparted to me. 'Take note of the 10 percent part in that equation,' he would always remind me, knowing with fatherly wisdom that this can sometimes be the hardest part to do."**—Joel, 23, on dad Cecilio Pedro**

"Dad builds my character and self-confidence. He teaches me a lot about how to push a point forward and strengthen my argument. When I was younger, I'd always fall for argument traps that, unknown to me, Dad had set. It was annoying and quite frustrating. As I grew up, I finally realized what he was doing: he was sizing me up, testing my waters, preparing me for bigger arguments and battles—indeed, life itself. I worked my way up to do what he had been training me to do."**—Kimi, 17, on dad David Guerrero**

"It's amusing to know that Aga has influenced Andres not only in his passion for exploring nature and dancing, but even his sense of style. Whenever Andres goes to school, he likes to put on a cap, wear his shades and dress in hip-hop clothes. Awed by the vision of a small version of him, Aga cannot help but tell his son that, just like him, Andres, too, is the man of the house."**—Charlene (wife) with twins Atasha and Andres, 5, on Aga Muhlach**

"My father
Cuddles me at night
Says a story and turns off the light
Then kisses me on the head
And says the words he has always said
I know that from the heart these words are true
Because what he says is 'I love you'"

— Andrea, 11, on dad Jim Ayala

"Dad was never the disciplinarian, but you'd know by the sound of his voice and the look in his eyes when he was disappointed. In his own unique way, he encouraged us. I remember, when I was in high school, I had a quarterly failing grade for the first time in my life. Dad came to me in my room, gently patted me on my back, and told me, '*Bumagsak ka pala sa* Geometry. Study harder and make up for it in the next quarters.' That was all he uttered. I could see that he was trying to mask his disappointment with his encouraging tone and a pat on my back. Tears of embarrassment almost fell from my eyes, and I never, ever had any failing mark after that."**—Alpi, 34, on dad Senen Bacani**

"My dad is my Optimus Prime, the leader of the Autobots and the greatest threat to the Decepticons! Like Optimus Prime, he protects us beyond limits and teaches us to fight for what is right. We love Dad so much because he defends us; he gives us blessings and teaches us how to become better persons."**—Miguel, 14, on dad Butch Jimenez**

"Our Father" is photographed by Jun De Leon, and edited by Mary Rose Abad-Jimenez. Call 6381188 or 09178556212

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

UPIS alumni homecoming

"GINTO'T PILAK NAMUMULAKLAK, Humahalakhak" is the theme of this year's grand alumni homecoming of the UP Integrated School on Dec. 8, Saturday, at the school's Multi-Purpose Hall.

All alumni of the UP Integrated School, UP High School, UP High Prep, UP Prep and UP Elem are invited to this afternoon extravaganza hosted by the Silver Jubilarians of UPIS, the Batch of 1982. The event honors the Golden Jubilarians of Batch 1957 and the other celebrating batches of 1947, 1952, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002.

On that day, the UPIS grounds will be transformed into a big street party where guests will be treated to good food, fun, games, prizes and entertainment.

Registration starts at 2 p.m. For more information, contact any of the following Alumni Homecoming Steering Committee members: Enrico Santos (09189394119), Atty. Ada Abad (09175269732), Anne Jimenez-Manso (09184178799) and Frannie Villanueva (09175232504), or log on to www.upis82.net.tf.

Nickelodeon at MOA

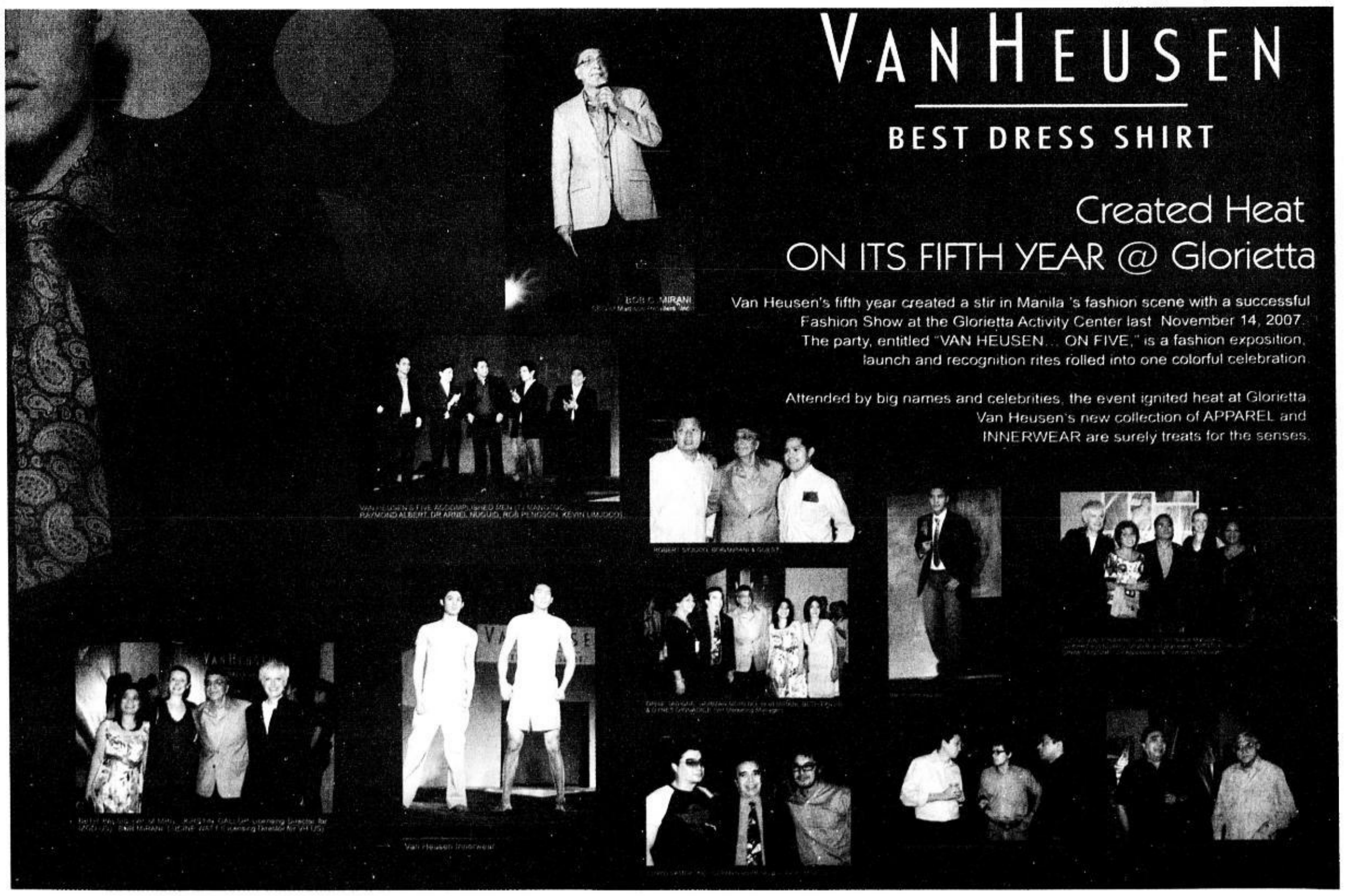
NICKELODEON'S BIG HELP 2007 campaign is set to end with a bang on Dec. 1, 2-6 p.m. at the Mall of Asia Complex, JW Diokno Blvd cor. Coral Way (in front of SMX Convention Center). Come in for free.

Nickelodeon partners with Gawad Kalinga-Batang Bayani program, K-Zone and Total Girl to give all a lot of fun and Nick-style play.

To be featured is the Share-moMeter that will display the levels and amounts of sharing gathered in the past six months. There will also be modules, games, Share Squares and photo op stations.

You can come to The Big Help Day by bringing something—books, clothes, toys, tins or spare change ... anything you might want to share with others. All those collected will be donated to the GK-Batang Bayani group.

The event will be hosted by KCA 2006 Pinoy Wannabe Sam Concepcion and Rowdy Robi Joseph. There will be special performances from Sugarpop, Sam C, and other surprise guests. Philippine Big Help Ambassador Makisig Morales will lead the formal ceremonies as Nickelodeon turns over the donation to GK-Gawad Kalinga collected from the Nickelodeon's The Big Help Special Edition Canisters distributed to schools over the past five months.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Van Heusen's fifth year created a stir in Manila 's fashion scene with a successful Fashion Show at the Glorietta Activity Center last November 14, 2007. The party, entitled "VAN HEUSEN... ON FIVE," is a fashion exposition, launch and recognition rites rolled into one colorful celebration.
Attended by big names and celebrities, the event ignited heat at Glorietta. Van Heusen's new collection of APPAREL and INNERWEAR are surely treats for the senses.

Do Pinoys read at all?

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

A national survey shows that reading has declined, with Metro Manilans reading less and less and pulling the rest of the nation down the road to illiteracy

WHAT IS THE MOST POPULAR book read (outside of school) by Filipinos? No, it is not Harry Potter, but the Bible. According to the 2007 National Book Development Board (NBDB) Readership Survey, 67 percent of respondents across the country read the Bible the most, followed by romance or love novels (33 percent), cookbooks (28 percent), comic books (26 percent) and religious or inspirational works (20 percent).

Other relatively popular book categories in 2007 are, in this order: humor, science (to my delight), horror and suspense, family planning, business, sports and fitness, health and medicine, government, laws, agriculture, lifestyle, heroes, animals, child rearing, social issues, and horoscopes.

Early this year, the NBDB commissioned the Social Weather Stations to do a second Readership Survey (the first was done in 2003). There were 1,200 respondents: 300 each from the NCR, Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. Respondents answered detailed questions about their reading habits, preferences, attitudes and behavior. (I am a governing board member of the NBDB.)

Decline in reading

First, the bad news. Generally, the survey shows that reading has slightly declined in our nation. Only 92 percent of respondents say they read, down two percent from 2003. The reading of books, comics, newspapers, and magazines has gone down, by seven, 13, 14, and 15 percent, respectively.

Why the decline? One culprit is the National Capital Region (NCR). Surprisingly, the NCR is the only cluster in the country where reading has decreased, by five percent. In Luzon areas outside NCR, readership has actually increased by two percent, and in Mindanao, readers have held steady.

Despite the proliferation of bookstores, publishers, and libraries in the NCR, book readers have decreased by a whopping 31 percent, from 95 percent in 2003 to 64 percent in 2007. Magazine readers in the NCR have decreased by 27 percent, comics readers by 12 percent, and newspaper readers by 10 percent.

But there is good news elsewhere. In the Visayas, general readership has increased by four percent. Readers of books in the Visayas increased by 11 percent; comics readers, by 10 percent; magazine readers, by one percent. (Newspaper readers have decreased by four percent.)

It is interesting to note that NBDB has done a lot of intervention programs in the Visayas, such as the Booklatan community reading activities, which may possibly have accounted in part for the increase.

Kudos to the youth

The youth are leading the way. They start to read non-school books at age 16, on average, one year earlier than in 2003. Again, NCR is the poor exception—young people here start reading non-school books at age 18 on average, two years later than the national norm.

Unfortunately, reading has declined across all age groups, except again for the youth, those in the 18 to 24 age bracket, where the percentage of readers has in fact gone up. Does this mean that we read less as we grow older? I hope not.

Reading has also declined across all socioeconomic groups, except those in the AB class. Public school students now read fewer books, newspapers, magazines, and comics than they did in 2003, and as for private school respondents, the slight increase in reading today is only among those reading comics.

Ninety-six percent of urban respondents read, compared to 88 percent in the rural areas. This may be explained by the lack of access to reading materials in areas far from city centers.

Reading behavior

Pinoys read anytime they want. Evidently, reading non-school books is not a habit for most people, except for some who read before going to sleep. The number of books read in the past year is seven on the average.

An average of seven books a year is not too bad, but what is alarming is the median number of books read, which is a low three. This means that even if half the adult population of the Philippines have read three or more non-school books in the past year, the other half have read only at most three, or worse, no books at all.

Why do we read? More than 85 percent of the respondents read to gain knowledge or more information. The rest read for enjoyment. Almost half of the readers read books by Filipino authors only, while the other half read both local and foreign books.

However, the majority of the respondents, whether they read or not, have few books at home. (More than forty percent have at most only five books in their homes.)

Why? Perhaps more readers prefer to read media other than print, such as the Net. Perhaps others turn to other types of entertainment, such as TV. Perhaps the cost of books has become prohibitive for most of us.

The survey does not analyze the reasons why, but the research team offers some recommendations. "The challenge is for booksellers and publishers, printers and paper and ink manufacturers, to make more books affordable. The government can facilitate this, as well as the financing of technology upgrades to make operations more efficient and economical."

"Authors are also challenged to write more books, not just to entertain, but also to inform, to teach the readers skills or to convey to them practical knowledge. Community libraries [should encourage] adults and out-of-school youth to like to read books; and educators, to teach students to read longer materials, such as books."

The NBDB will present the 2007 Readership Survey results to the public on Nov. 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Publishers, reading associations, educators, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. For more details, call the NBDB at 9209853.

Accreditation for pioneering school

THE BEACON SCHOOL HAS BECOME the first educational institution in the Philippines to receive authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Switzerland to offer the Middle Years Program (IB-MYP, Grades 6-8).

With the recognition received Nov. 20, the Beacon School, an IBO World School, has the distinction of being the first and only fully authorized educational institution in the Philippines accredited at every level of its academic programs by the IBO.

The accreditation was also achieved in record time.

Beacon's Primary Years Program (IB-PYP, PS-Grade 5) was accredited in 2004 .

The pioneering 7-year-old school is an independent, non-profit, coeducational K-8 school. Its curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework.

Beacon is committed to providing a global education of the highest quality, rooted in an understanding of Filipino culture and traditions, to children of all nationalities.

It seeks to enable students to think critically and creatively by establishing a strong foundation in academics, the humanities, spiritual education, and physical education.

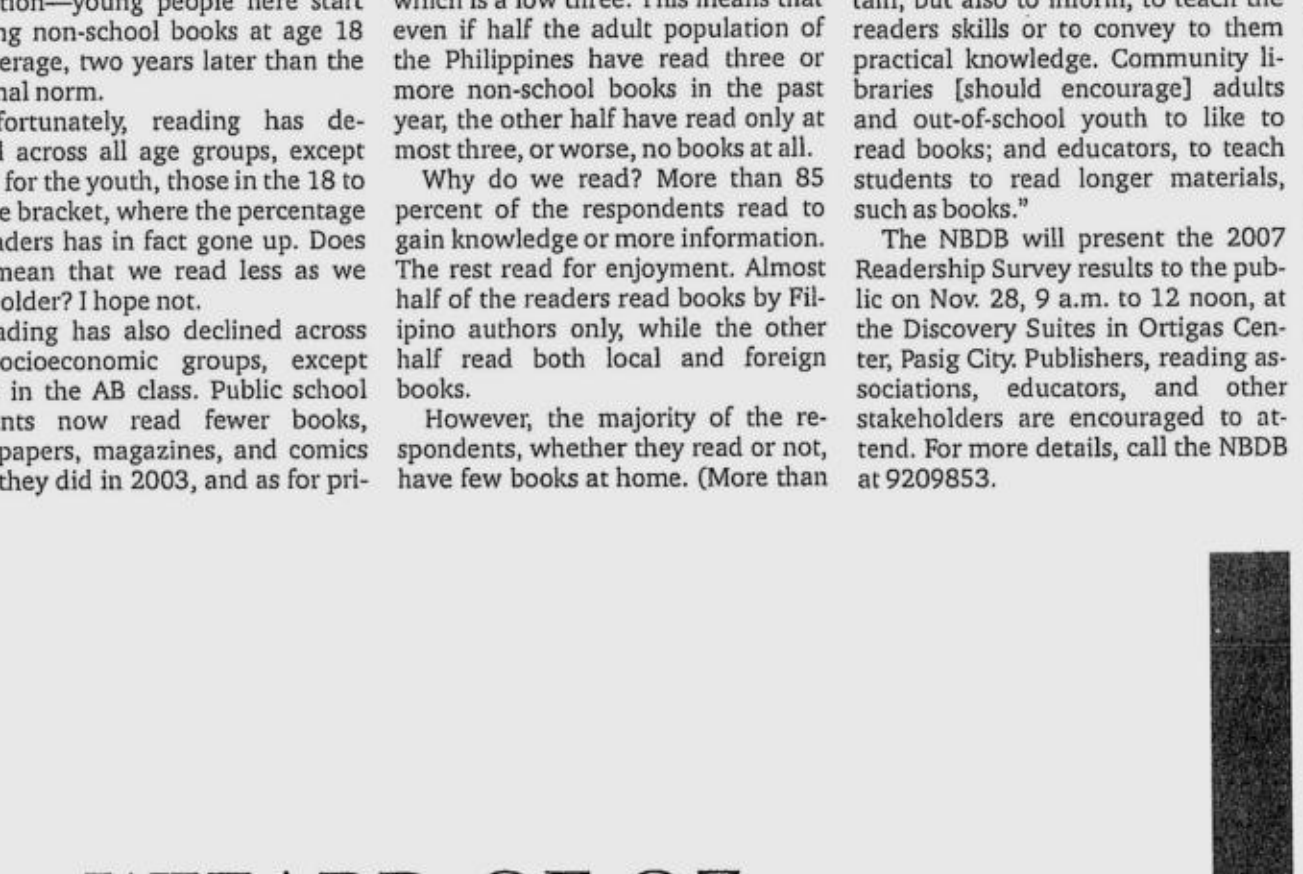
The school also has a community outreach program, building ties with barangays, a public school in Taguig, and teacher-training programs in Batangas.

Each year, Beacon students pool their resources together to help feed undernourished students, tackle issues of poverty, environmental degradation, and community development.

Students as young as 6 years old learn about their environment and the impact their actions have.

Beacon School accepts students aged 2½ to 13 years old. Beacon School is at the PCPD compound, 2332 Pasong Tamo Ext., Taguig (www.beaconschool.ph, tel. 8405040, e-mail admissions@beaconschool.ph).

WIZARD OF OZ



Basically a land of immigrants, Australia today boasts of a unique cuisine enriched by the exciting fusion of Mediterranean and Southeast Asian flavors. Greek, Italian, Lebanese, Indonesian and Malay immigrants have all contributed to this culinary marvel using the freshest of local produce and the choicest of seafood and meats. Let guest chef Kenneth Thomas Hines weave his magic spell as he serves up a feast fit for kings and queens from November 22 to December 6, 2007 at the Prince Albert Rotisserie.

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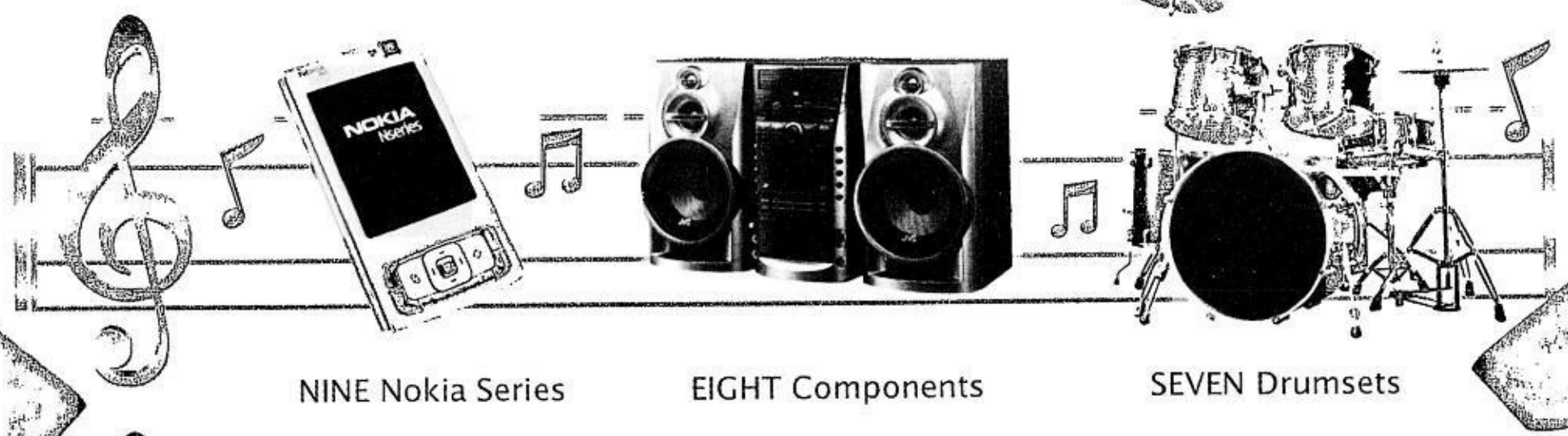
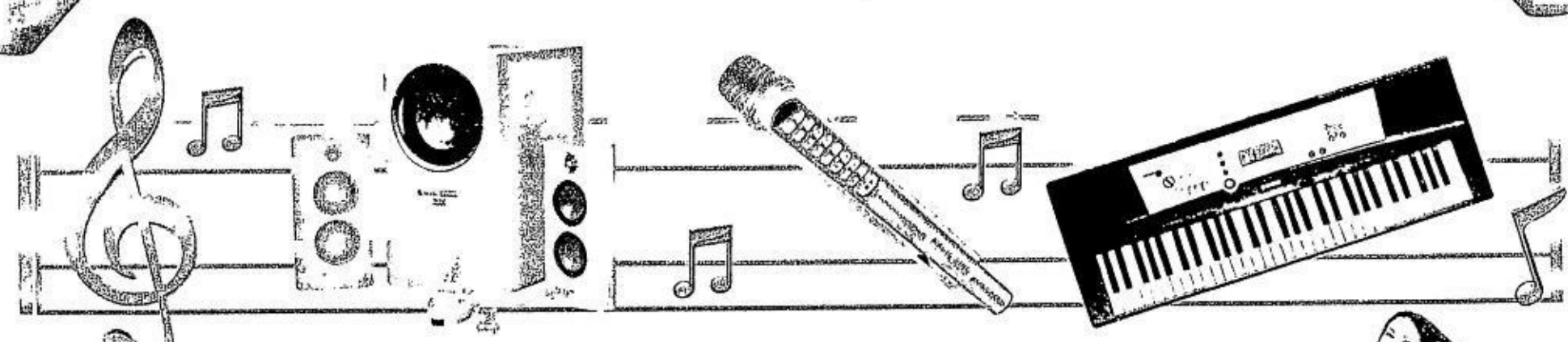
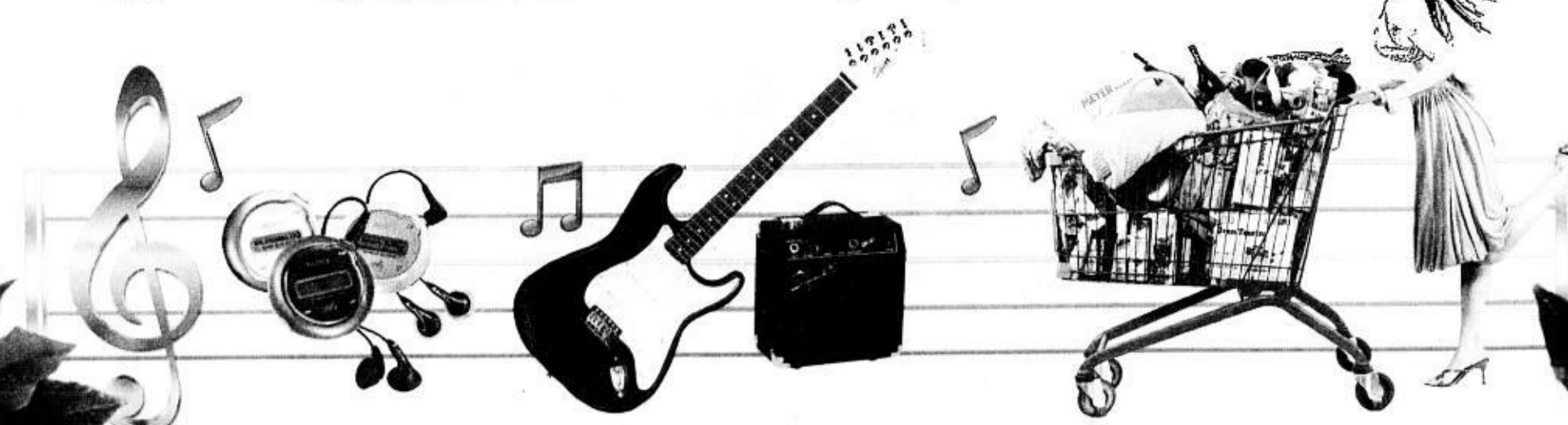


NINE Nokia Series EIGHT Components SEVEN Drumsets



SIX Speaker Sets FIVE Magic Sings FOUR Keyboards



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The return of Isabel Preysler

An exclusive with one of the most beautiful and glamorous women in the world

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ISABEL PREYSLER

ISABEL with Imelda Cojuangco and Ambassador Luis Arias (topmost)

By Anton San Diego
Contributor

IT WAS ISABEL PREYSLER Week when one of Europe's most glamorous, beautiful and iconic women came to Manila. Isabel, who had not been home for more than eight years, took Manila by storm. She was here to attend the Inno Sotto and Bea Valdes gala fashion show and, of course, to visit friends and family.

As expected, everyone wanted to spend some time with this sorely missed Filipina, and a series of dinners were immediately planned for her. The first one was, naturally, given by her family at the home of her first cousin, Rosanna Tuason Fores. Another one was hosted by her Assumption classmates at the home of Mary de Leon. Then there was the fashion show. The next day, after the show, Sotto also hosted a dinner at Sala, and guests included Patxi and Sofia Elizalde, Maurice Arcache, Bea Valdes, Marietta Santos, Gina Roxas and Pilar Roxas. The Philippine Tatler, likewise, gave a dinner for her at the Mandarin Oriental Manila's Tivoli Grill, which was attended by Ting Ting Cojuangco, Lyn Ilusorio Bildner, Doris Ho, Inno Sotto and her sister Vicky Preysler and niece Christina Tuason. Jaime and Bea Zobel also gave a dinner at their home before she left.

Preysler had to jet back to Europe in time to catch her son Enrique Iglesias' concert in London. Her two daughters, Ana and Tamara, went with her to the concert, along with about 15 other friends.

To find out how iconic Preysler really is, she had barely arrived in Madrid when photos of her in Manila came out in Spain's premiere society/lifestyle magazine Hola. The magazine has a circulation of more than a million readers.

I was privileged to get an exclusive interview with Preysler in Manila at the tail-end of her visit. Below is the one-on-one with this beautiful and gracious lady that the whole country is so proud of.

What is it like coming home after eight years? Seeing family, friends and classmates again? Seeing Manila as a city?

Coming back to Manila after so long was wonderful. I see my family often because we travel a lot and they come to Spain. But friends ... I always love to see the ones from my childhood and teen years, they are part of my roots. Manila has changed so much in eight years—so many more buildings and remarkable improvements.

What do you miss most about the Philippines?

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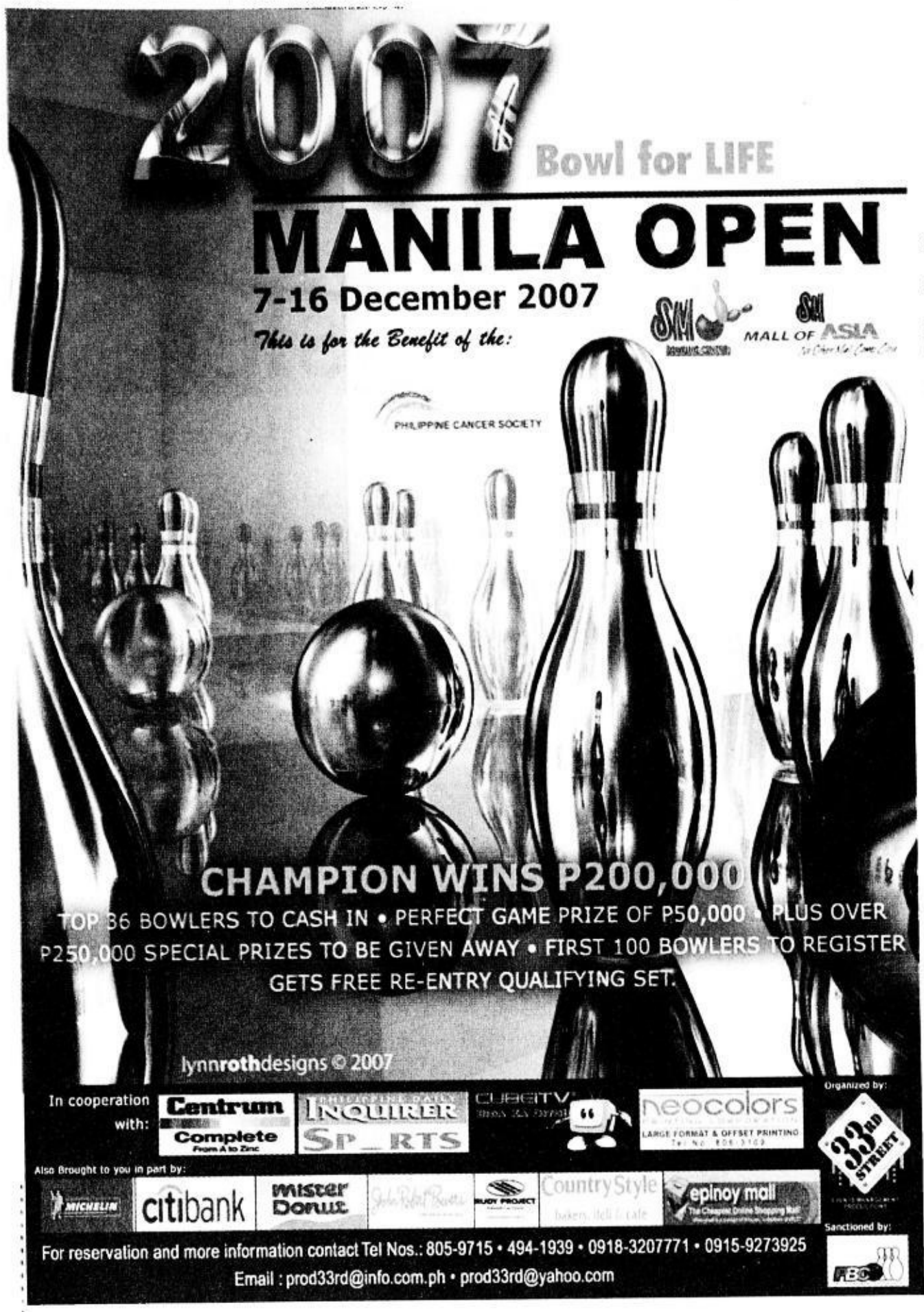
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EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Sister-in-law has overstayed her welcome

DEAR EMILY,

How do my wife and I tell her sister that she should get a life, and stop living ours?

My wife and I are abroad, happily married, have a beautiful daughter and our own house.

My wife's sister is unmarried, has no kids and no house of her own—the reason she is always in our house.

She is with us every Saturday afternoon and stays until Sunday evening. She eats our food, she keeps us from watching our own television, reads the Sunday paper before we do and even takes it to the bathroom with her.

She spends hours on our computer and has to be asked to let us use it. She comes with us wherever we go—to church, to the mall, even to the supermarket.

There is no escaping her and she does not take hints. When my wife casually mentioned that we wanted to take a vacation out of the country, she automatically checked her schedule and said she would see if she was free during that time so she could come with us—without being invited.

She does not have any suitors and just enjoys reading and watching gossip shows about actors and actresses. She is the typical couch potato, and about the same size and shape.

She does not give my wife and I much private time as a married couple, with her constant presence. We already tried telling her to go out more and make something of her life. Sometimes she does, but returns quickly to us, her comfort zone.

How do we tell her to get her own life?

CC

I am looking at both sides here and I can see your point and your sister-in-law's dependence on you.

You are lucky that you have a good job abroad, happily married and quite content with your lot.

Your sister-in-law, however, is not as lucky. She seems to be quite lost and holds on to her sister's (your wife's) somewhat idyllic existence so as not to get carried away by this strong current of loneliness.

Her weekend comings and goings have created a comfort zone that she has grown accustomed to.

She obviously has not found it necessary to develop interests outside her sister's family —meaning yours—given her physical size and predisposition. Clearly, her intrusion on your weekends is no big deal to her.

She is probably saying that the five days she is out of your hair should be enough time for you and your wife to be alone. She does not even consider her presence an intrusion, judging from the way she takes over your TV, the newspaper, your computer...

You are family to her. Period. Family does not shoo away family. They are taken cared of ad infinitum... ad nauseam.

Someone with your sister-in-law's character has to be confronted head on. Hints and double talk have not worked—you said so yourself.

If you want to solve this nagging irritant, you and your wife should deal with her or you can ask your wife to talk to her sister alone over lunch in a neutral place one weekday, and lay out the problem simply but emphatically. No holds barred.

She should be made to understand that you and your wife are young and want to savor each other passionately in the privacy of your own home without having to avoid constantly bumping into relatives.

She is really a tub of lard if she cannot understand something as simple and as delicate as that!

She is a big girl now and must start her own life without depending on you. Clearly she has social issues that she must resolve on her own. Let her articulate them and, afterward, stop baby-sitting her.

Remember your Geometry—the shortest distance between two points is a straight line? Put it to the test.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Visit www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

SCHOOL children of Cardinal Sin Village in Sta. Ana, Manila

DORA, the popular Nickelodeon heroine, is the centerpiece of the Christmas displays in Robinsons Malls.

NILO Mapa, Robinsons Malls general manager, turns over donations to Fr. Arnold Rex Kintanar, assistant parish priest of Punta Sta. Ana, Manila.

Intrepid preschooler set to 'explore' the Philippines

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

THE PRECOCIOUS, ADVENTUROUS, sweet, sincere and, most of all, fun-loving seven-year-old Dora, the Explorer, is about to "explore" the Philippines.

Finally, the travels around the world of the beloved preschooler and her best friend, a monkey named Boots, have taken her to the Philippines.

If you are a fan of Dora and want to learn more about this adventurous girl, check her out at Robinsons Malls that made her the centerpiece of their holiday decor and activities this year.

The Latina girl gained fame through Nickelodeon where, through her singing, dancing, and interactive play, she teaches kids about Spanish culture, helping them learn a Spanish word in every episode.

She has become a favorite of many Filipino kids who eagerly buy every new item in Dora's expansive product line.

"We've chosen Dora as this year's theme because she definitely offers quality and educational entertainment to children," said Eunice Gonzales, Robinsons Malls' marketing communication director. "We are committed to give our shoppers a distinct and unique experience—something that the whole family can enjoy."

Aside from fun and colorful visuals, Robinsons will also stage the musical "Dora's Best Friends Day."

CELEBRATE friendship and the holidays with Dora the Explorer and her friend Boots and Australian performer Karina Lawrence in a live musical show at Robinsons malls.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

"The value of friendship and camaraderie and the meaning of having special moments with your loved ones is the essential message of this musical," said Gonzales.

Children and adults will see Dora, Boots and Tico, the squirrel, sing and dance. The musical will be shown at Robinsons Place Lipa on Nov. 25 and Robinsons Place Manila on Nov. 30.

Other shows are: Dec. 1, Robinsons Novaliches Market; Dec. 2, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga; Dec. 7, Robinsons Galleria; Dec. 9, Robinsons Place Imus; and Dec. 15, Robinsons Place Pioneer.

Shows will be held twice daily, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

At Robinsons Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Place Angeles, shows will be held at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 and Dec. 14, respectively.

Meet and Greet sessions with Dora and her friends will be on Dec. 16, 4 p.m., at Robinsons Cebu; Dec. 21, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Robinsons Bacolod; and Dec. 22, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Robinsons Place Iloilo.

Dazzling decor

As in the past, Robinsons is not sparing any detail in ensuring its Christmas displays will please not just shoppers but passersby, too.

"It is for the kids that we deck the malls with bright lights and colorful trinkets, giving the season more glitter and sparkle," said Roseanne Villegas, Robinsons Land Corp. public relations manager.

Animated Christmas displays will be featured in all Robinsons' Malls. The Dora theme will be carried in various displays in the canopies, atriums and outdoor settings.

Special attractions include a stunning 80-foot tall Christmas Tree at Robinsons Nova Market; a 550-sq-m Dora the Explorer Adventure Playland at Robinsons Starmills; a 1,000-sq-m interactive playground at Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa where kids can visit a Butterfly gazebo, Tree House in a sand box, Rainbow Rock Tunnel, Dora's House, and a Fun Tree log tunnel.

Robinsons' Malls in Imus, Cavite and Bacolod will feature a 20-minute outdoor animated musical show with "Dora the Explorer" as theme.

At Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, shoppers and passersby along Aguinaldo Highway will be treated to a 10-minute animated musical show that includes a 50-ft Rainbow Rock Mountain.

Kids can have special photo sessions with a Chocolate Tree backdrop. A small pond with a bridge will be set up as play area.

Larger than life Dora-inspired décor will be featured in all the malls.

Robinsons Galleria officially ushered in the holiday season by recently unveiling its Christmas display. The formal lighting ceremony of the Christmas tree was attended by Quezon City officials and mall officers. Highlight was the hand over of the mall's donations to residents of the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila.

ISABEL with mom, Betty Preysler; cousin Rosanna Fores; sister Vicky Preysler and niece Christina Tuason; aunt Mercy Tuason; and good friend Ching Montinola (topmost)

The return of Isabel . . .

From page F1

Family and friends, first of all. Then the food. I love Filipino food, although some I can get in Spain. And of course, Filipino hospitality, which is something that cannot be found anywhere but here.

How's your visit? Hectic? Too short?

Both—definitely hectic and too short; but I am enjoying every minute of it.

What would you say are the highlights of your trip?

Spending time with family and friends. Of course the fashion show was a wonderful event. My classmates also made my stay in Manila memorable by hosting a get-together. It allowed us to catch up and share some laughs.

You get a lot of attention in Spain. Is it the same with people here in Manila who would like to meet you and ask to have photographs taken with you?

It's a compliment and always a pleasure when people want to meet me or take a picture with me. To feel liked and appreciated is such a blessing, isn't it?

Your trip was a time to catch up with your family. What was that like?

This trip gave me the opportunity to spend time with some of my cousins who I do not see often. Although I have said that I see many of my relatives frequently, it was nice to visit them in their homes for a change.

How was the fashion show? Your thoughts on Inno's designs? Bea Valdes?

Fantastic! Beautiful colors, very original gowns and, as usual, Inno showed his creative talent and Filipino ingenuity. Bea Valdes? What can I say? So much talent in someone so young. I loved the beautiful bags.

What will you take with you from this trip?

So many fresh memories with my life-long friends. And food … mangoes, *suman* and *ensaymada* (which she took along with her back to Spain)

When do you think will you be back?

Because I have three children and a grandson in the United States, I take every opportunity I have to visit them. But when we are all able to, I definitely want to come back soon with all of my children. The last time I was here, my three girls came with me. Julio and Enrique have also been here, but we all must come back to Manila together.

Your message to your family, friends and the country as a whole?

I am so grateful for the warmth, the care and love I have felt on this trip and most especially over the years. Although I do not get the chance to come back to Manila often enough, I'm always so overwhelmed by the support I get from my family and friends.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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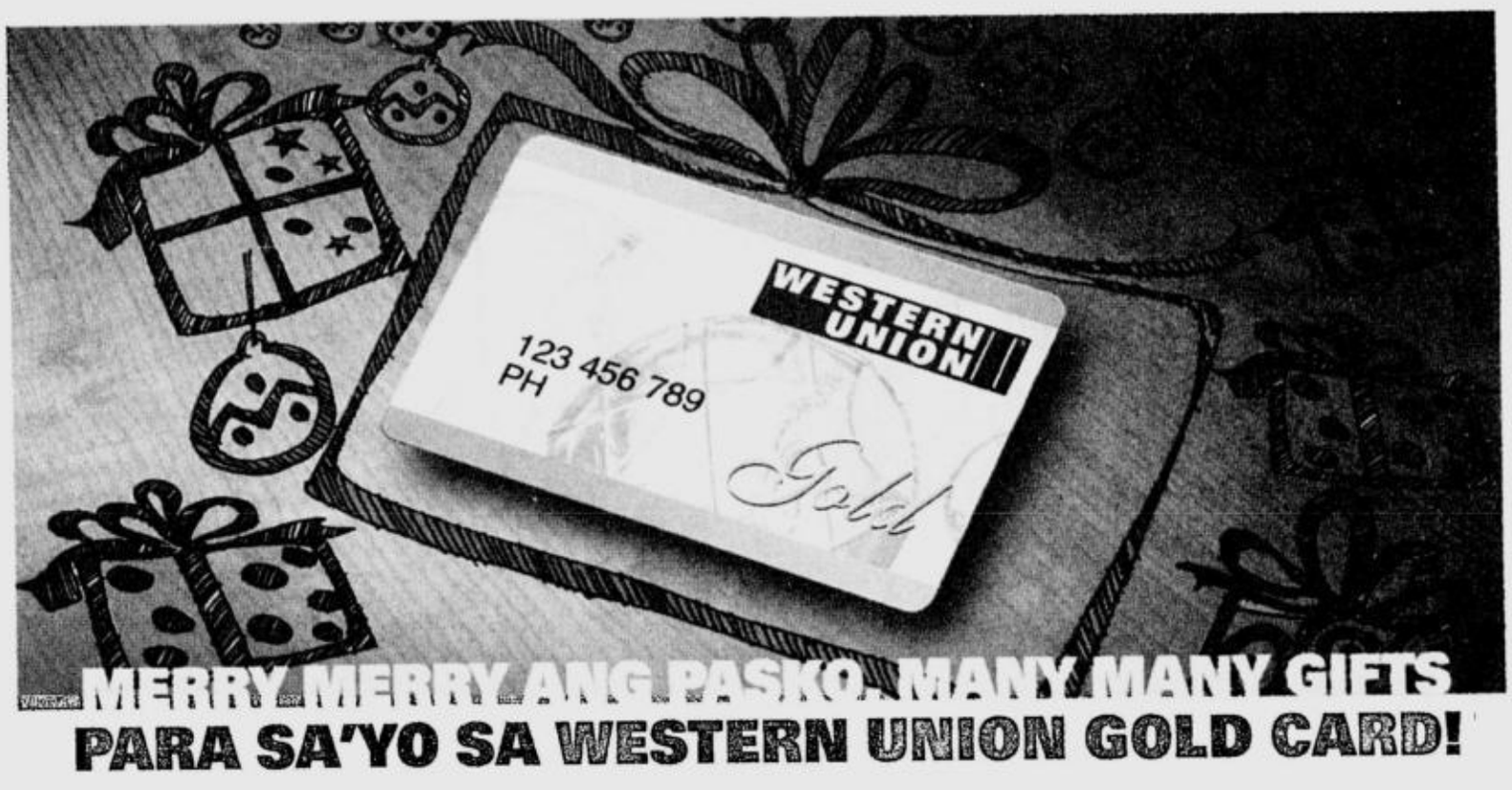

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The Mabuhay Manor Hotel	· 20% Discount on Hotel Accommodations on cash or credit card (based on published rates) · 20% Discount on Food and Beverage products at Sutukil and Lola's Restaurant. · 10% Discount on Banquet Packages · 20% Discount on use of Swimming Pool

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A musical Christmas treat

THE AYALA MALLS BRING TO the country "Seussical The Musical" this Christmas season!

It will be the first time that the Broadway musical is going to be performed in the country and also the first time that it will be brought to a mall setting.

Ayala Malls' special Christmas offering this year, the musical will feature Dr. Seuss' most famous characters like Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird and all of the Whos of Whoville.

Adapted from the original Broadway version but condensed into a 65-minute one-act show, Seussical The Musical was given Christmas-themed sets, costumes and a Christmas carol by Atlantis Productions.

The Cat in the Hat, probably one of the most loved Dr. Seuss characters, is host and emcee of the show that will include classics like How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Green Eggs and Ham, The Butter Battle Book and, of course, The Cat in the Hat.

The show is presented with special permission by Music Theatre International, with original music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, book by Ahrens and Flaherty, and concept by Ahrens, Flaherty and Eric Idle of Monty Python fame.

Sharing the role of Cat in the Hat are Nikki Gil, Roxanne Barcelo and Karylle.

Staged in the country by Atlantis Production, the Philippine version is directed by Chari Arespacochaga, with choreography by Dexter Santos, lighting design by Jay Aranda, costume design by Twinkle Zamora and production supervision by Bobby Garcia.

"Seussical The Musical" will have a run in Alabang Town Center today; followed by performances in TriNoma, Dec. 1-2; Ayala Center Cebu, Dec. 7-9; and Glorietta, Dec. 12-14.

NIKKI GIL

Amateur choir contest

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST choir to win in the Koro Bago Pre-Christmas Inter-Collegiate Amateur Choral Competition?

Finalists are choirs of the City College of Manila, Jose Rizal University, Metro Manila College, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, St. Louis College of Valenzuela, Trinity University of Asia, UP Diliman, and Wesleyan University Philippines.

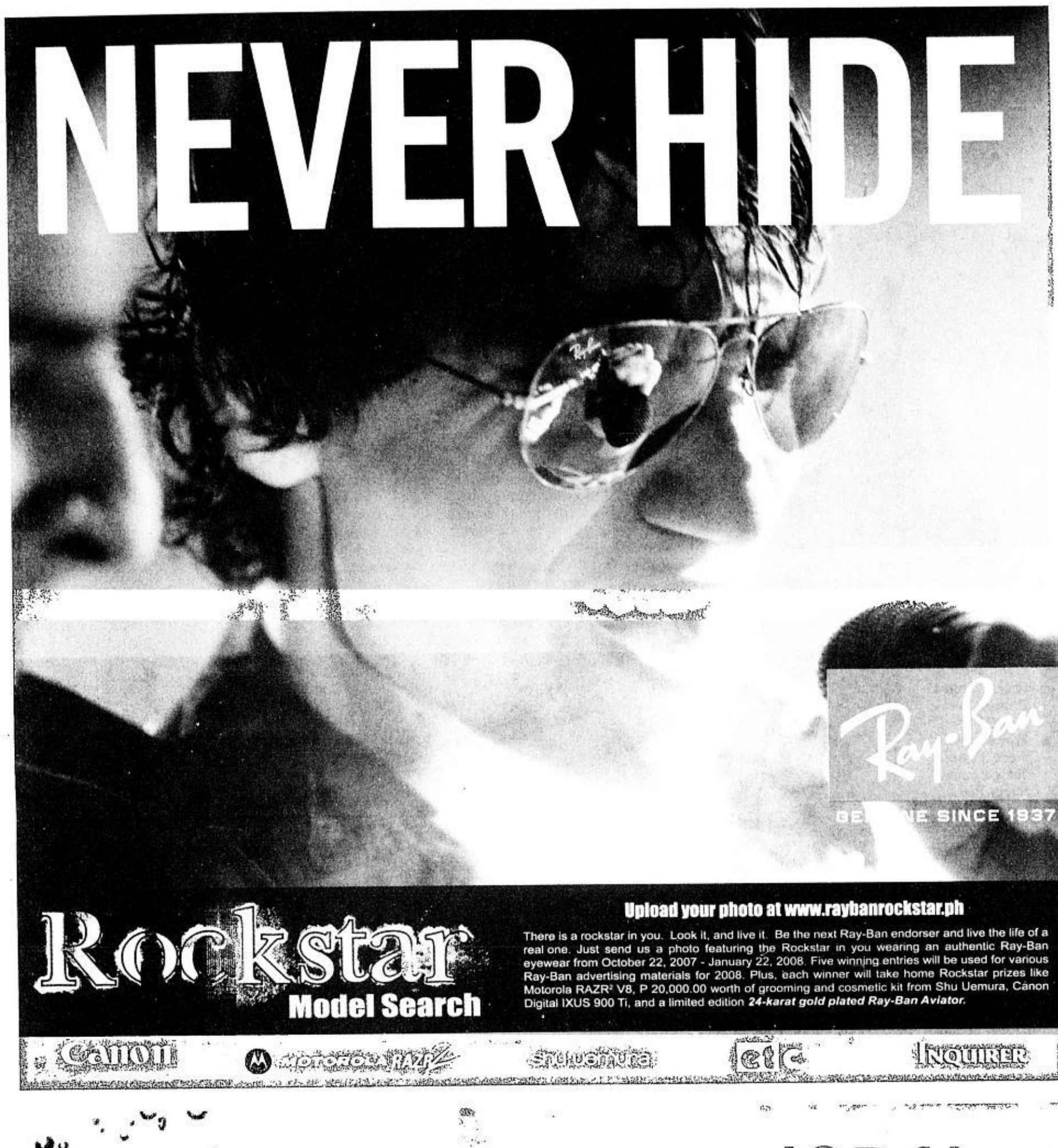
Finals night is on Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Cinema 9 of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Tickets available at P200 and P150.

The contest is presented by Vima Inspirational Music / Vima Concerts and sponsored by UnionBank, Island Rose, 98.7 DZFE-FM, and 103.5 MAX-FM. Call 453-1173 or log on to www.vimaconcerts.com for more information.

Yuletide album

PRE-ORDER A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR your family and friends: "Pamaskong Tanging Yaman" CD, which contains 12 personal favorite songs of Jesuit priest Manoling Francisco, composer of liturgical classics like "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," "Take and Receive," "Tanging Yaman" and "In Him Alone." "Pamaskong Tanging Yaman" contains songs chosen from 12 CDs produced by Jesuit Communications—songs spanning 22 years of songwriting from "Bawa't Sandali," written before Fr. Manoling entered the Society of Jesus in 1885, to "Pauwi Na," composed recently. Proceeds of this Christmas CD will help the Tanging Yaman Foundation to fund a college scholar in every region of the Philippines.

CDs will be sold in sets of 5 CD copies, at P1,000/per set. Book your orders before the Dec. 1 cut-off. Call Ryan or Roi, Tanging Yaman Foundation at 426-6101 local 3612.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There is a rockstar in you. Look it, and live it. Be the next Ray-Ban endorser and live the life of a real one. Just send us a photo featuring the Rockstar in you wearing an authentic Ray-Ban eyewear from October 22, 2007 - January 22, 2008. Five winning entries will be used for various Ray-Ban advertising materials for 2008. Plus, each winner will take home Rockstar prizes like Motorola RAZR² V8, P 20,000.00 worth of grooming and cosmetic kit from Shu Uemura, Canon Digital IXUS 900 Ti, and a limited edition 24-karat gold plated Ray-Ban Aviator.
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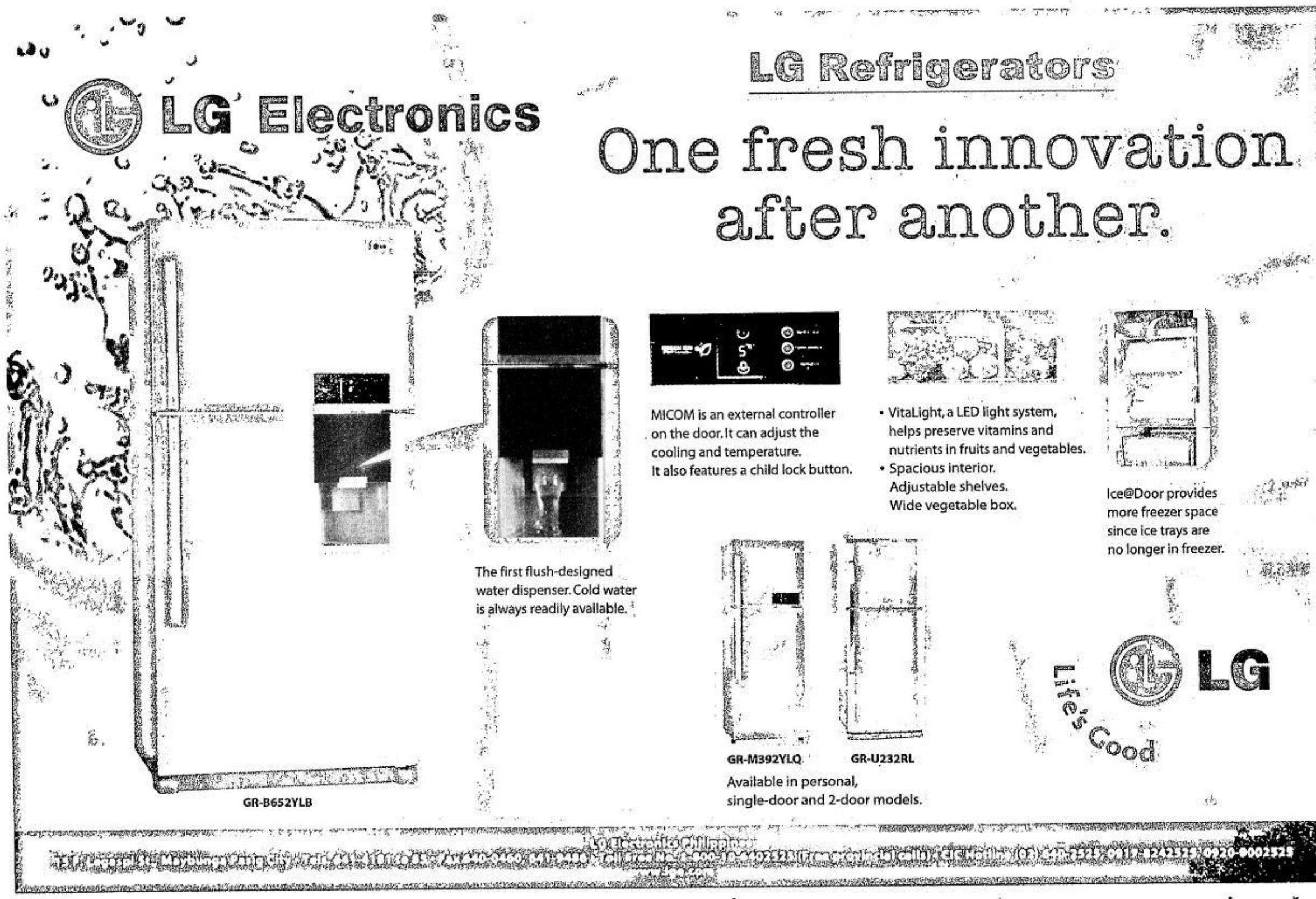
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■ Travel: How RP lures Korean students /G3

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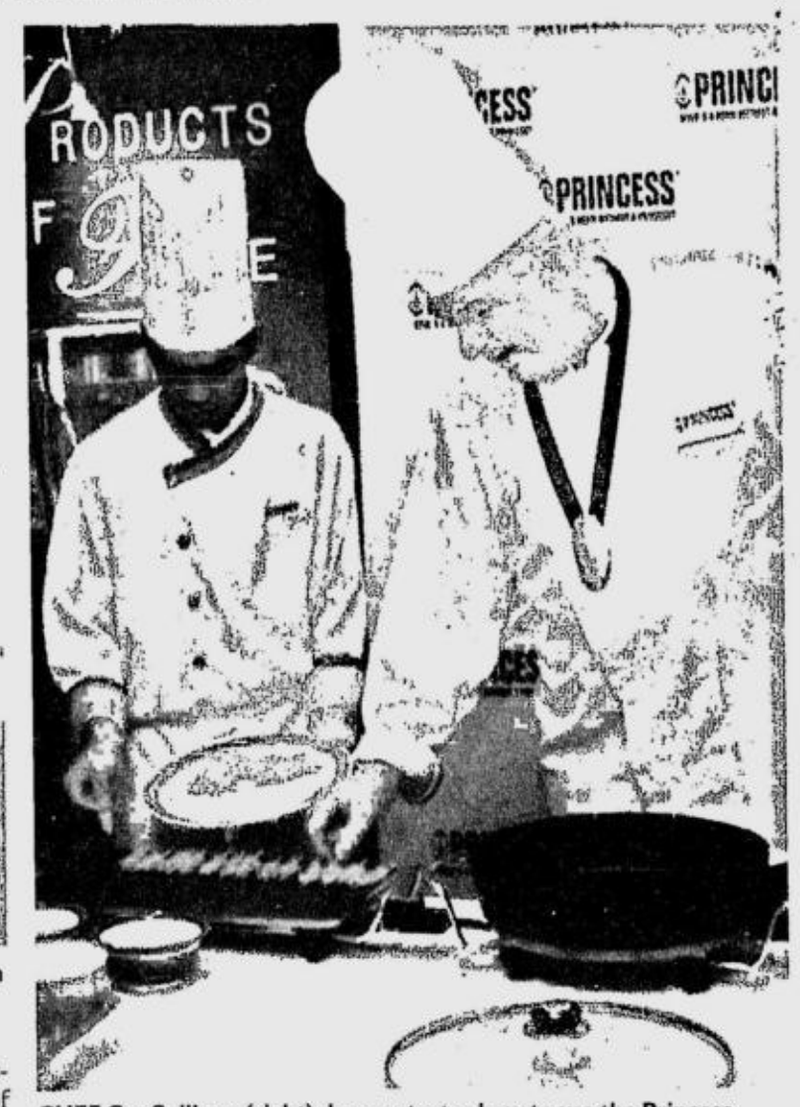
THE SILVER Grand Cafe Siena, silver and black with a glass jar

THE ROYAL Deep Fryer Easy has removable inner pan, removable filter lid and non-stick coating.

Princess appliances are more than just pretty faces; they seem to be quite efficient, too

CORDLESS Royal Water Kettle is available in two sizes, 1L and 1.7L.



CHEF Cas Spijkers (right) demonstrates how to use the Princess electric grill.

A royalty in your home

By Linda B. Bolido

WITH LIVING spaces shrinking, people need appliances that are multitaskers, even just serving the dual purpose of being both decorative and functional.

Let's face it. While many items now in the market perform what they are supposed to do quite well, they may have to be kept in a dark, secluded place until they are needed because they just clash with the decor.

Sometimes, however, there is not even that dark, secluded place for keeping useful but not-so-photogenic pieces. When living space is cramped, adequate storage may be a luxury.

Opting for the pretty faces in the market may not be a wise alternative. Often, good looks are all that is going for them. While they may enhance the ambience of your home, they may not be as sturdy and efficient as you want them to be.

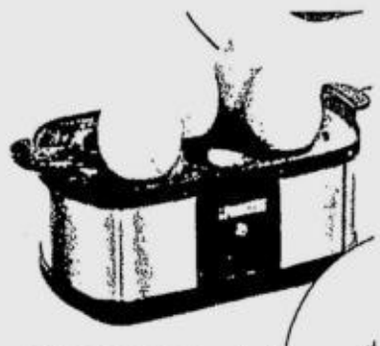
But now a royalty may just get you out of that dilemma. You can have a princess in your house that is nice to look at and reputed to be as efficient and functional.

THE SILVER Turbo Mixer has five speeds and turbo.

A Dutch brand of small appliances has made its grand entrance in the Philippine market, joining the SM Department Store chain's offerings at its Homeworld section.

Princess brand items are clearly stylish and innovative in design, pretty little things that you will proudly put on your kitchen countertop or even your dining table while doing your bidding.

Cas Spijkers, master chef and ambassador of the brand, assures prospective owners of Princess that the products have both beauty and "brains." In fact, although launched in the Netherlands only in 1994, Princess is now in 75 countries and has become the world's largest supplier of small domestic appliances in chrome and stainless steel.



THE CLASSIC Egg Cooker and Steamer is made of brushed stainless steel. It has six egg trays and comes with a steam rack.

Spijkers conducted a cooking demonstration during his brief visit to demonstrate just how versatile and convenient a Princess is, specifically its range of electric grills. With no or little oil, Spijkers grilled satay, steak and a few other items in a matter of seconds almost then afterwards simply wiped the grill with a piece of tissue paper to prepare it for another round of cooking.

Gilbert Wong, export director for Asia Pacific, says the nonstick construction of the grill with the use of very strong two coats of Teflon does not allow the taste of whatever was cooked previously to stick to the grill and affecting the flavors of subsequent items. It also makes for easy cleaning.

On the other hand, "the use of 100-percent aluminum allows for efficient heat transfer for quick cooking." In fact, Wong says it may be more efficient to use the grill's heat to thaw frozen items instead of the microwave oven.

PRINCESS' Karin Van Kempin Schariff and chef Spijkers

Although it requires more power than a microwave, the shorter time it takes to cook anything makes it just as energy efficient, if not more, than the oven, Spijkers says.

As for health concerns about Teflon and aluminum being transferred to food, Wong says there is no need to worry. He says the Teflon coat is so thick and strong there is very little risk that inadvertent scrubbing will loosen the non-stick cover.

With regard to aluminum, he says the substance is not exposed to the surface to result in transfer to food.

For its Manila debut, Princess, which promises to have consumer-friendly prices starting from as low as P1,000, brings four distinct product lines. The Classic line is the largest collection of stainless steel household products.

Living up to its name, the Royal line has stately white shiny finish, almost like sparkling pearl.

The Silver line features thermo plastic products with a silver finish and with designs that are innovative, almost futuristic, while remaining functional.

The Red line draws inspiration from Retro fashion. Vintage-looking pieces, such as a bread toaster that looks like an old-fashioned chunky radio, are made more attractive by their vivid red hues.

HOLIDAY CLASSICS REDEFINED #25

The Crazy Stripe Crew

as worn by: WILL.I.AM, MUSICIAN

THE JACUZZI and swimming pool

Garden of joy

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by August dela Cruz

Created to mark a happy occasion, the patch of green at the Pascual's backyard has become a venue for activities of the group Ligaya ng Panginoon

WHEN ANNA MARIA LOURDES Pascual, Mia to her family, turned 18, she decided she would rather have a garden party at home instead of a big bash in a five-star hotel or a fancy restaurant.

But the family garden was just a few meters of greenery, not big enough to hold boisterous and active young people. There was, however, an empty lot at the back of the family home where Dr. Abraham Pascual and his wife Sylvia planted vegetables and the children used as playground.

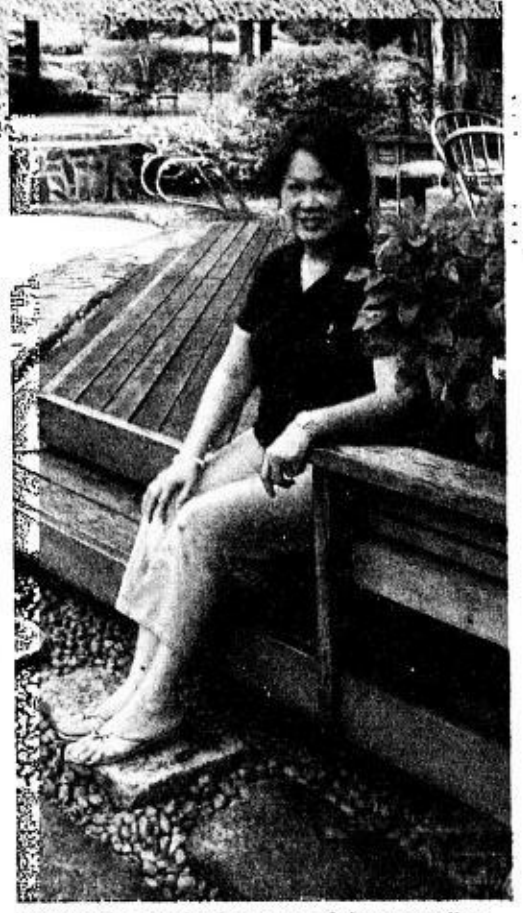
The Pascuals decided to acquire the property and a landscaper was hired to turn it into a real garden in time for the coming-out party.

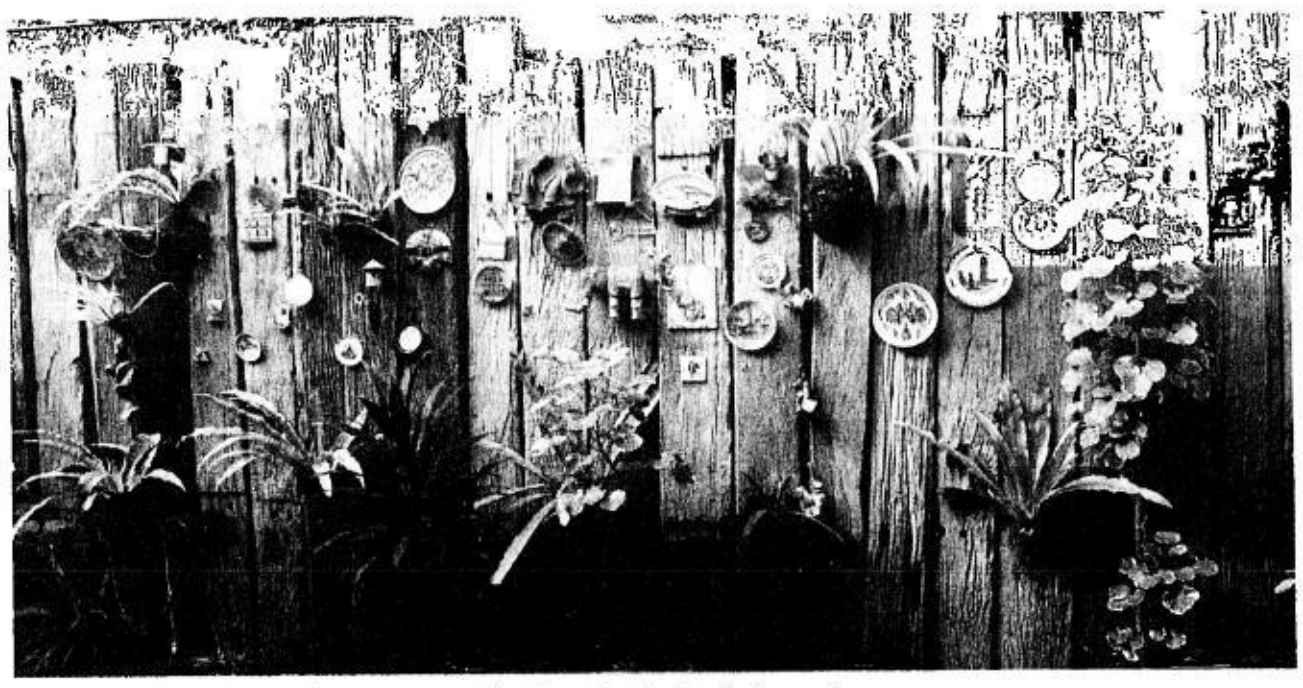
That "inaugural" event appears to have established a pattern for the garden. Now, more than a decade later, the garden has become a venue not just for family parties but also for get-togethers and other activities organized by Ligaya ng Panginoon, an organization committed to strengthening family relationships to which the Pascuals belong.

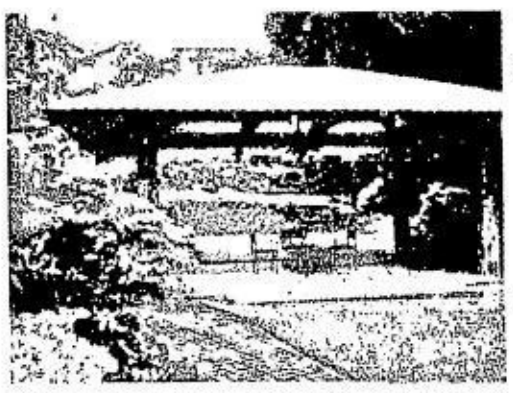
With a swimming pool and jacuzzi (recently, the Pascuals added a spa that can comfortably accommodate three people), the religious association holds seminars, social activities, even mini camp-outs by setting up tents in the spacious ground.

Both devout Catholics, the Pascual couple willingly lend their garden for free to the organization Ligaya sa Panginoon that works to strengthen marital bonds.

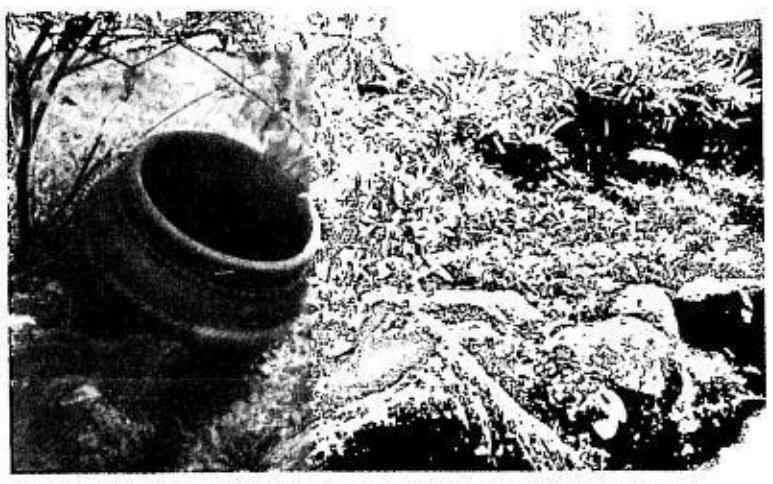
CANOPIED swing invites quiet romantic moments.

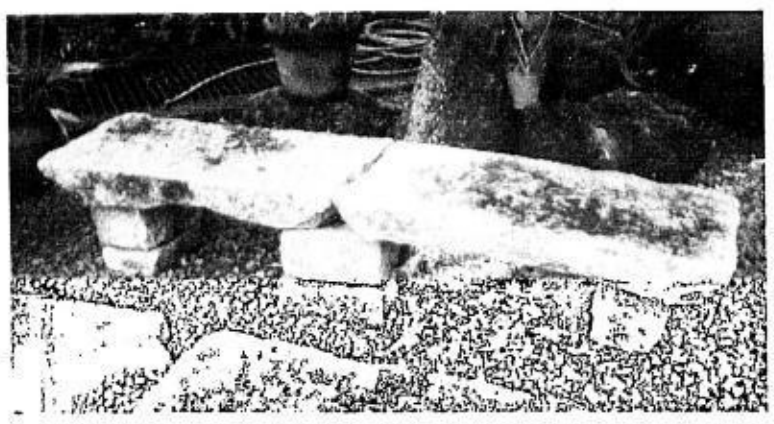

SYLVIA Pascual takes care of the sprawling garden's aesthetics.


THE SOUVENIR wall contains mementos of various trips the family has made.


THE SMALL pavilion allows for meetings and seminars of Ligaya ng Panginoon members.

DAMA Juanas were used as containers for pharmaceutical preparations in the early years of the Pascual Laboratories.


A LARGE tapayan distinguishes this corner of the garden from the rest.


SYLVIA Pascual had boulders and rocks broken up and turned into items like this bench.

The garden itself has become a conjugal project for the Pascuals. The landscaper has long gone. Though there are two employees from Bulacan who keep the grounds clean and the plants trimmed and watered, the couple has divided the task of keeping their garden well-stocked and aesthetically organized.

Dr. Pascual, a graduate of pharmaceutical chemistry, chooses and collects the plants, applying the scientific process of trial and error in deciding what will remain in the garden.

"I first test a couple (of plants) to see if they are suitable to the garden, given its soil and the pests that thrive here," he said. Not surprisingly, the garden is filled with hardy and low-maintenance varieties like bromeliads, croutons (also known as San Francisco), ferns and a variegated *pandakaki*, among others.

Sylvia said, "It is therapy for him, a respite from the stress of the corporate world." He used to have a sizeable collection of orchids, his wife said, wanting to go into orchid farming when he retired. But the exotic blooms needed a lot of attention, something the chair of the Filipino pharmaceutical firm Pascual Laboratories, a pioneer and leader in the production of generic drugs and scientifically developed herbal formulations, was unable to provide given the demands of his job.

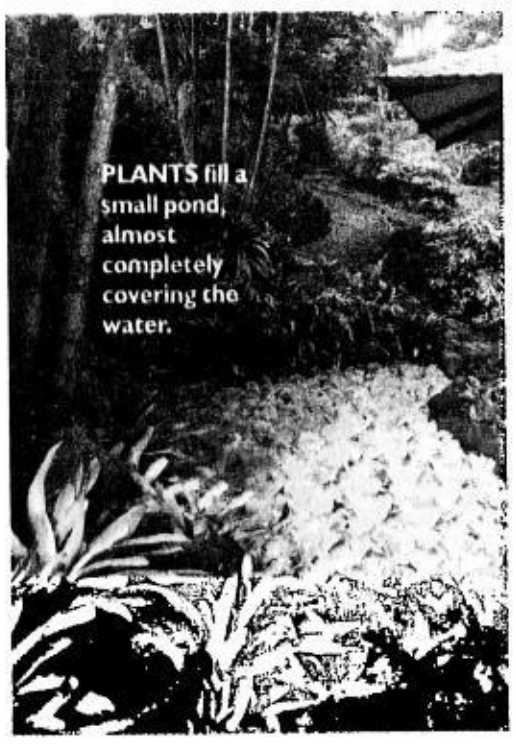
She laughingly recalled that when he marked his 50th birthday, he asked friends and family to give him plants in lieu of gifts, even giving them a list of the varieties he wanted for his garden.

But as his plants increased in number, Pascual realized there had to be some sense of order and harmony in the garden so he asked his wife, who said she loved to fix their house, to apply her aesthetic sense to the greenery. She was only too happy to do so.

Looking at all the plants that were accumulating in the garden, she felt that they needed to be put in order. *"Gusto kong suklayin,"* she said. So she had the gardeners move things around, creating nooks and corners with interesting features.

A small pool is filled with water plant. Old Dama Juanas that were used as containers for medicine provided contrast to the unrelieved green of groups of plants. Large boulders that came with the property were broken up into smaller pieces and scattered in different parts of the garden. Capiz lamps and ferns were hung from the branches of a robust sea grape, one of the first trees Pascual planted.

AN ANTIQUE image of a saint graces the front of the Pascual home.


PLANTS fill a small pond, almost completely covering the water.

When a son built his house on the other side of the garden, wooden stairs were built making the greenery as much a part of the young Pascual's property as his parents'.

Though they are not next-door neighbors, members of the Ligaya ng Panginoon were also given access to the garden. Sylvia said because the organization often held activities there, the garden had been christened by some Ligaya Gardens or Hardin ng Ligaya. She said it had become a retreat house, a venue for debuts and weddings, prayer meetings, etc. With its pool and sauna, people even go on excursions there, bringing their own food and entertainment.

Guests are now enjoying the pool even more after the family stopped using chlorine to keep it clean, relying instead on ozonization.

But the Pascuals do not mind. *"Tuwang-tuwa kami* to share it with the community," Sylvia said.

At least once a week, however, the new sauna is exclusively for the Pascual couple's use. "It is our bonding time," she said.

VIVID blooms contrast dramatically with the bleached wood of the pool lounge area.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

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PROMO collaterals from the ESL Center of the University of Cebu, one of the participants in the Korea Student Fair Fall 2007 held in Seoul

Korean tourism arrivals are driven by the relatively cheap English-language instruction the country offers

TO INTENSIFY its efforts to attract Korean students to study in the Philippines, DOT Team Korea will soon take its campaign on a roadshow in Korean schools. Airlines, which give discounts to students visiting the Philippines, say students comprise 15-17 percent of Korean tourists here.

Philippines attracts English-eager Koreans

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

MARICON Basco-Ebron

HYUNSOOK Oh

THEY'RE NOT COMING IN JUST FOR the beaches; they're also here for some crash course in English.

Korea, the Philippines' largest single source of tourists, is now bringing in droves not just holidaymakers but also students who wish to learn the English language.

Students account for 15-17 percent of Korean tourists in the Philippines, according to the Philippine tourism attaché in Seoul, Maricon Basco-Ebron. As of April, 14,400 Korean visitors have arrived here to enroll in language institutions or universities around the country.

"They like the Philippines because everybody speaks English. It's easier to learn; they get to practice everywhere," Ebron, who also heads the Department of Team's Team Korea, said at the recent Korea Student Fair held in Seoul, a biannual event that brings together schools all over the world to attract students who wish to study abroad. The event draws in over 500 exhibitors from the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and neighboring Asian countries.

Cheaper cost

While the Philippines is not a native English-speaking country, the cheaper cost of English-based education here is a major come-on to Koreans, Ebron said.

"Sending a child to the US for one year is equivalent to sending a child for two years in the Philippines—plus the mom," referring to the fact that Korean parents could easily come to the country to check on their children and enjoy the sights as well.

Hyunsook Oh, who works with the Philippine tourism office in Seoul, estimated the cost of Korean university education at $4,000 per semester, or roughly four times the tuition for the same period in a major university in Metro Manila.

She added: "The Philippines is relatively cheaper than the US, Canada or England. And it's only 3½ hours away so parents can visit anytime. If they send the child to the US, the parents have to plan their visit."

Most Koreans enroll in "short-term" or two-month English as a Second Language (ESL) course or study for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) here as preparation for further education in another country.

Younger students come in for language camps, typically two-month courses during their summer or winter break. (Philippine travel agents also offer golf and dive camps, where young Korean athletes learn the sports' lingo in English before they compete abroad.)

New trend

A trend of late has been to put up groups of students in rented homes located in posh gated villages like Ayala Alabang, equipped with resort-like facilities such as a swimming pool. A two-month program of this type costs about $2,800 per, and designed to create a good impression of the Philippines, Ebron said.

Baguio City, she added, has also lately been playing host to Korean nurses who wish to undergo career training before they leave to work in the US or United Kingdom.

Ebron also noted the number of Koreans enrolled in top universities, mainly in MBA programs.

The Philippines has already posted a 6.6 percent share of the total number of Korean university and graduate students enrolled abroad as of April, or nearly 5,000 more students compared to the previous year.

Oh said education is highly valued among Koreans. Children as young as 5 years old are sent abroad, both "to study the English language and to experience a different culture." (The International School of Manila and Brent International School are among the top choice of Koreans here, Ebron noted.)

"It's a fact that when you have English [language] skills, you're more competitive, whether you work [in Seoul] or abroad," Oh added. She herself earned two master's degrees in a US university.

At the Korea Student Fair-Fall 2007 in Seoul, nine Philippine ESL schools participated, most of which are located in Cebu.

"You know, most of the parents were at first just visiting the resorts," Ebron said, "but that didn't stop them from staying long-term for the education of their children... A Korean Airlines manager was stationed [in the Philippines] for four years. He was to be recalled after his posting, but he opted to retire and stay for the sake of his children's education."

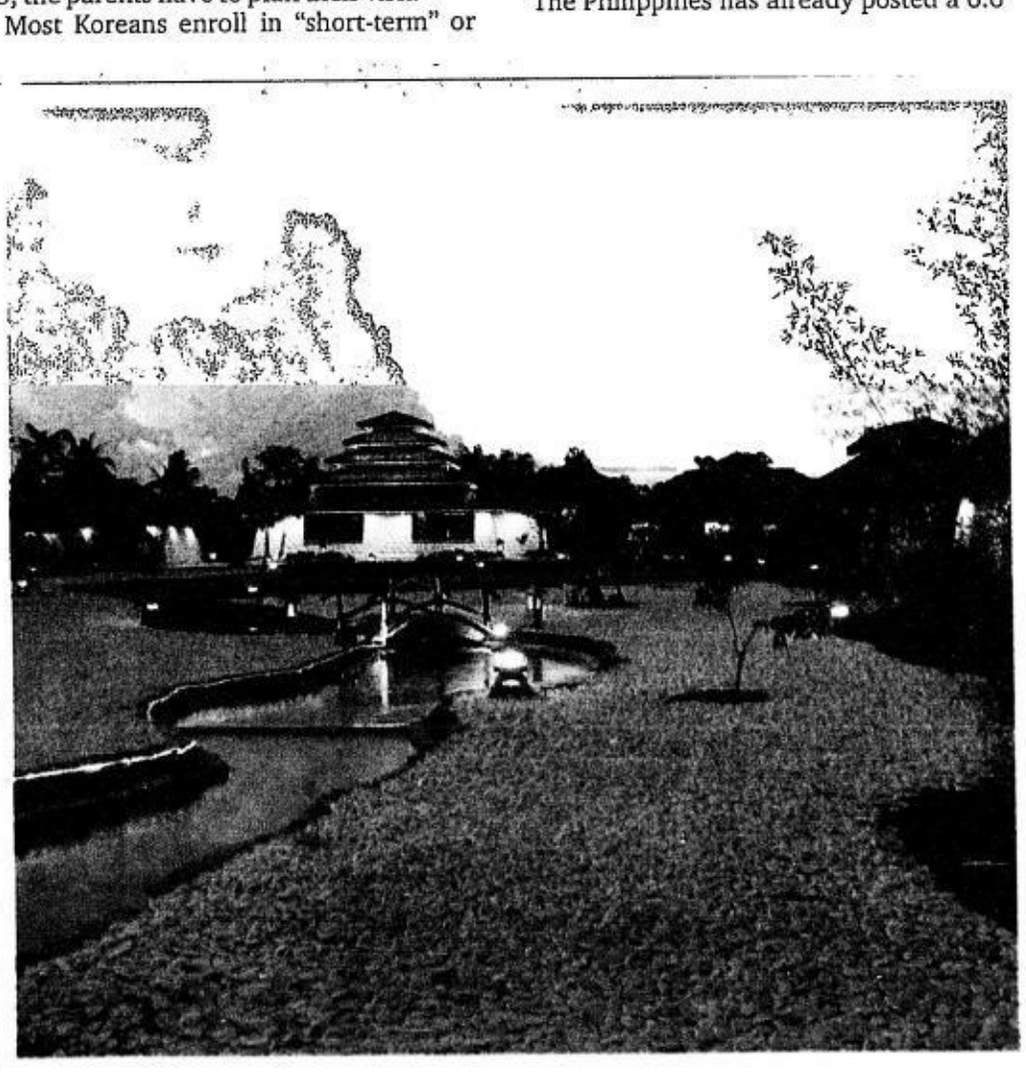
The tourism department's participation in the fair has been quite productive, Ebron said, that she's confident her office would meet its target of 650,000 Korean tourist arrivals by yearend, 110,000 of which she hopes will be students on their winter break. For the first eight months of 2007, 439,000 Koreans visited the Philippines.

"When we participated in the fair for the first time in 2004, we only had two booths without any design, just a nice photo," Ebron recalled.

"Then it became 10 booths. Last spring, we had 28 booths... Next we're going on a road show in Korean schools."

ONCE a favored retreat only of vacationing Koreans, Cebu is now also luring Korean students to enroll in its English as a Second Language centers.

THE PHILIPPINE Department of Tourism joins over 500 exhibitors in the Korea Student Fair-Fall 2007 at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul.



Rejuvenating experience

Plantation Bay has just opened the exclusive Mogambo Springs Spa. Patterned after a Tokugawa Japanese village, the spa occupies some 5,000 sq m of space for comfortable and luxurious massages. It has several shower rooms and three rooms where guests can check in within the spa premises. Conceptualized and designed by Plantation Bay president Manny Gonzalez, together with architect Ma. Lourdes Martinez-Onozawa, local materials were used in the spa's construction like treated bamboos, *pandan* flooring and thatched *nipa* roofs giving it a Filipino character. At Mogambo Springs Spa, clients can look forward to truly relaxing and rejuvenating experience.

Travel Briefs

Travel books launched

TRAVEL Books for a Cause was launched recently at A Different Bookstore, Serendra, The Fort, Taguig City. It features "Nina's Travel Sketches" by Nina Lim-Yuson, "The Yellow Paper Clip with Bright Purple Spots" by Nikki Dy-Liacco, and "Passport" by Sana Sta. Ana. The event featured a musical program. Part of the sales will benefit ATD Fourth World Philippines, an international non-profit organization that helps poor families. The money will support ATD's Christmas programs and activities.

Healthy lifestyle

Camp John Hay in Baguio City offers a dynamic active lifestyle in pleasant surroundings and mild climate. The camp has a total of 250,000 pine trees in a 246-ha forest reserve that keeps the temperature comfortably low. It has a 2-km Eco Trail for those who enjoy walking. The Eco-trail leads right into the heart of the forest, with its pine trees, butterflies and birds. But there is also a fitness gym at the CJH Manor for those who want more vigorous physical activities. Other activities include horseback riding, rappelling, and, of course, golfing in the camp's 18-hole course. Call 074-4427902 to 08/4425782; or 6376966. E-mail cjhmarketing@campjohnhay.com.ph or cjhsales@campjohnhay.com.ph. Visit www.campjohnhay.com.ph.

MABUHAY GOLD AWARD WINNER

Ascott International's country general manager, Arthur Gindap, received this year's Mabuhay Gold Award at the 2007 Mabuhay Awards. Given by the Association of Human Resources Managers, the award honors outstanding achievement in the hospitality and restaurant industry. Gindap has been in the hotel and restaurant industry for 27 years. He is also in charge of three properties in the Philippines, Somerset Millennium Makati, Somerset Olympia Makati and Somerset Salcedo Makati (http://www.the-ascott.com).

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Opus Dei recollection in Moscow

AS THE PERSONAL PRELATURE of Opus Dei prepares to celebrate its 25th year on Nov. 28, Mary Elizabeth Bilgera, cooperator in Moscow, Russia, reported that the first ladies' recollection was held in that city in August.

Supernumerary Dr. Ma. Teresa of Spain and Gabi Santa Maria of Chile supervised the recollection. The wife of a Spanish ambassador, Dr. Teresa has been a supernumerary for 35 years.

Elizabeth is married to Roberto Bilgera, operations chief of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) in Moscow. The only Filipino participant, she became cooperator in 1993.

Moscow has two Opus Dei priests, Fr. Fernando Vera and Father Antonio.

In Moscow, Elizabeth attends Mass every day because her apartment is only a 20-minute walk from the church. The city has only two Catholic churches—St. Louis and the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Cathedral.

OPUS Dei in Moscow: Mary Elizabeth Bilgera (second from right) with participants in the first recollection in Moscow

The prelature

Opus Dei was founded in 1928 and approved by the bishop of Madrid in 1941. In 1982, it was established as a personal prelature of the Catholic church.

Personal prelatures are part of the Church's hierarchical structure, similar to dioceses and approved to carry out specific pastoral missions. Opus Dei's mission is to spread the ideal of holiness for ordinary men and women.

In the Philippines, Opus Dei members have collaborated in applying the social doctrine of the Church, especially the preferential option for the poor. They established training centers for out-of-school youth and rural girls.

Opus Dei has 3,000 members in the Philippines and 85,000 all over the world. St. Josemaria Escriva said, "This life is short. Let's make good use of it." He meant we could fill our lives with God by sanctifying work.

The late Don Alvaro Portillo became the first prelate of Opus Dei. The cause of his beatification is being studied. Those wanting to get his prayer card can write to me c/o the PDI. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Eucharistic Adorers' congress

The Eucharistic Adorers League headed by Mona Lacanlale and the Pink Sisters are holding the 20th Eucharistic Congress on Dec. l, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Adoration Convent, 77 Hemady St. corner llth St., New Manila. Theme is "Reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father: Sacramentum Caritatis."

Speakers and topics are: Fr. Apolinario Ty, SSS, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be celebrated;" Fr. Linus Nicasio, SVD, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be believed;" and Bishop Pablo David, DD, "The Eucharist, a mystery to be lived."

Prayers, reflections and songs will be led by Fr. Raul Caga, SVD. Bishop Pablo David will preside at the concelebrated Mass. Registration starts 7 a.m.

Concert

Though Nov. 4 was a stormy day in Tuguegarao City, the Coro de San Jacinto, directed by Fr. Rannie C. Aquino, and the St. Paul University Philippines Chorale, directed by Sr. Corazon Querubin, SPC, held a concert to mark two events: the culmination of the year of jubilees of Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan and the centenary of the St. Paul of Chartres Sisters in the archdiocese of Tuguegarao. Accompanying the choirs was the famed University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Prof. Hermenegildo Ranera. Sr. Querubin, played the piano, alternating with Fr. Rannie, for some numbers.

Micky Jacinto, a graduating student of UST's Conservatory of Music, captured the heart of the audience.

The orchestra was deftly conducted by the incomparable Ranera. Many songs were arranged for orchestral accompaniment by Prof. Ranera and Dom Benildus Maramba, OSB, pianist and UST music professor.

Fr. Aquino premiered the orchestral rendition of Bato sa Buhangin, arranged by Fr. Maramba.

As the choir sang "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal", the lights went off but choir and orchestra finished the number. The awed audience gave a thunderous applause.

Archbishop Talamayan gamely did two numbers: the "Impossible Dream," his favorite, and "I Believe," drawing thunderous applause.

CARDINAL Rosales with Cofradia officers Helen Ong and Danny Dolor at Imelda Cojuangco's residence

Cardinal Rosales welcomed

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion welcomed Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales in the house of founder Imelda Cojuangco.

The group presented a donation of Pl million for the cardinal's "village for the poor" in Pasay City.

Among those present were Rory Eizmendi, president; Nene Leonor, Fe Rodriguez, and Helen Ong; members of the *comite de festejos* organizing the procession on Dec. 2, 4 p.m., in Intramuros like Ado Escudero, Danny Dolor, Allan Tengco, Dheiy Arionday and Clifford Chua; and 2007 *hermanos mayores* Estela Lopez and Josefina Tiongson.

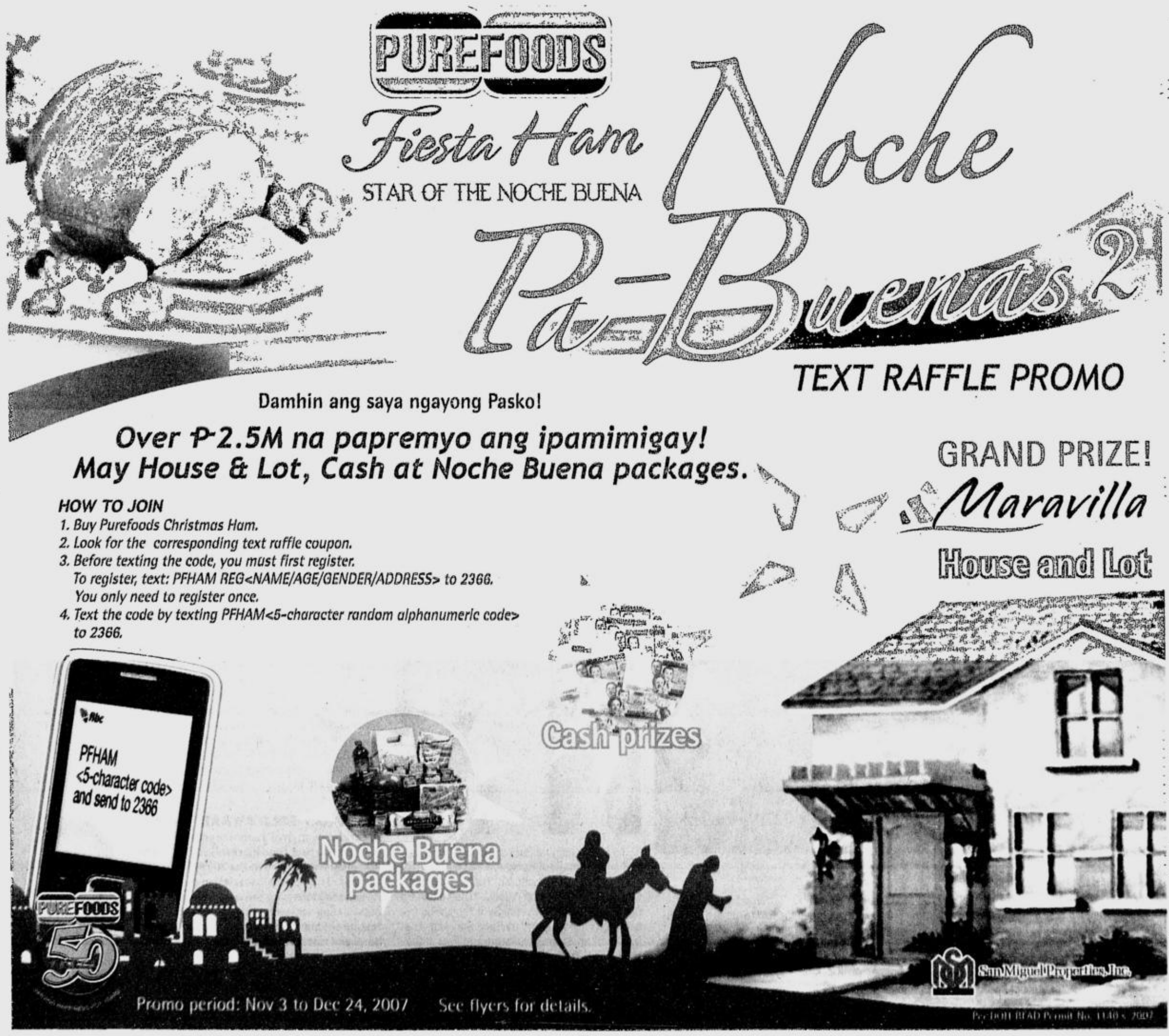
Festival

A holistic and wellness day will be held Nov. 30 at the Villa Jireh Japeth Educational Institute, Uyong, Labrador, Pangasinan. Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. by Fr. Garcia and Fr. Sheehy. Helyn Escaño is chair. Call (075) 549-526l or telefax (075) 549-7283.

Fiesta

Fiesta Masses will be held 5 a.m., 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. for the Virgen de los Remedios in Baliti, San Fernando, Pampanga with Fr. Mar Miranda as celebrant. Bishop Roberto Mallari officiates at the 5 p.m. concelebrated Mass with Fr. Alfred David, parish priest, and others.

Fr. Vic Robles celebrates at l0 a.m. today 20 years as a priest at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Sta. Rosa, Marilao, Bulacan.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment

WILLIE Nepomuceno

TESSIE Tomas

EUGENE Domingo

NANETTE Inventor

CANDY Pangilinan

RODERICK Paulate

INSIDE

- **Liar, liar– gotcha!** Rushes /H4
- **Ruffa says Regal film is 'really for me'** Take Five /H4
- **Another film on Edith Piaf** /H5
- **The 'package'** Only in Hollywood /I1

UP brand of humor showcased

IS THERE A BRAND OF HUMOR TRACEable to the State University?

Comic artists from the UP alumni roster—led by Willie Nepomuceno, Tessie Tomas, Nanette Inventor, Roderick Paulate, Candy Pangilinan, Eugene Domingo and RS Francisco—take center stage for "Ciento Comico, 100 Years of Fun and Laughter," an evening extravaganza that kicks off the university's year-long centennial celebration.

"Ciento Comico" is being mounted by the UP Alumni Association, and starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, at the UP Theatre in Diliman.

Filmmaker Maryo de los Reyes, a UP Mass Communications graduate himself, says that gathering all these busy comedians "is a tall order."

"But they are all committed to this project because they want to jump-start UP's centennial year with a bang," he says.

That these pros have agreed to be part of the show is a "matter of generosity and compassion," De los Reyes jokes.

He says that apart from featuring the veteran comedians who graduated from the State University, the show will also showcase fresh talents who've made the annual "Live AIDS" comedy revue such a riotous success.

Tickets are available at popular prices. For details, contact the UPAA secretariat at 920-6875 or 920-6868 or e-mail upalum@yahoo.com.ph.

C/S, ETC, 2nd Avenue on free TV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SOLAR ENTERTAINMENT BARED its new channel lineup at the Advertising Congress in Subic on Thursday.

According to Solar head Wilson Tieng, his company has formed an "alliance" with four free TV channels, both on the VHF and UHF bands—RPN 9, SBN, RJ TV and ABC 5. The new partnerships resulted from the impending termination of Solar channels in Home and SkyCable, Tieng said.

In an official statement, Juno Chuidian, SkyCable vice president for programming, said: "With the entry of our three new channels (Balls, Maxxx and Velvet), SkyCable will no longer carry [Solar channels] Basketball TV (BTV), Solar Sports, ETC, 2nd Avenue, Jack TV and Crime/Suspense."

Streamlining

Chuidian said this move is envisioned to "strengthen and streamline [SkyCable's] programming mix." After all, he noted, "some of the more prominent programs on [Solar] channels may still be found on free TV or SkyCable's other channels such as Star World and AXN."

Tieng said that moving to free TV would solve his company's problems, including "bad signal in our old cable companies."

He said C/S programs will be seen on RPN 9, ETC shows on SBN and 2nd Avenue series on RJ TV "24 hours a day, 7 days a week, starting Jan. 1, 2008."

Ramon Jacinto, head of RJ TV, told INQUIRER Entertainment that his regular shows—"Thank God It's RJ" and "RJ Online"—would be retained in their weekend time slots.

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3 BEOWULF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
PREMIERE
ENCHANTED

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2 ENCHANTED
3 GREEN PARADISE

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2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

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2 ENCHANTED
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2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

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EDSA corner SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5

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3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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4

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2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA
CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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2 ENCHANTED
3
4

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2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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2 LUST CAUTION
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 HITMAN
7 ENCHANTED
8 RESERVED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 GREEN PARADISE

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
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(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE

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(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 UNREST
2 GREEN PARADISE

Blue Wave
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2 (DOLBY) GREEN PARADISE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 KANGKONG
4 GREEN PARADISE

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2 TUKSO
3 ENCHANTED
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 ATAUL FOR RENT

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3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

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3 GREEN PARADISE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GHOST SON
4

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1 GREEN PARADISE
2

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1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
2 HITMAN
MTRCB R-13 12:20
2.45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
3 BEOWULF
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg. EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:

VIVA COMMUNICATIONS, INC. — REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES
Registrant

x----------x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on November 8, 2007, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of Viva Communications, Inc. for the registration of 408,952,148 common shares of stock with par value of PhP1.00 each which shall be sold or offered for sale as follows:

		Offer Price
Primary Offer	92,857,143 Common shares	P 9.72 to P12.93
Secondary Offer	49,999,500 Common shares	P 9.72 to P12.93
Issued and Outstanding	266,095,505 Common shares	P 1.00

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

Vicente R. del Rosario Jr.	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Teresita R. Cruz	Director, President and Chief Operations Officer
Teofilo R. del Rosario	Director
Vincent G. del Rosario	Director, Executive Vice President/Treasurer
Veronique R. Corpus	Director, Senior Vice President
Eduardo A. Yotoko	Independent Director
Ray A. Dempsey	Independent Director
Marcia Gina L. Lopez	Corporate Secretary and Legal Counsel
Elsie Torrejon Rufino	Executive Officer for Films and Broadcast
Marie Ann G. Gomez	Group Comptroller
Maria Theresa C. Santiago	Comptroller

The registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours at the Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA, Quezon City, and copies thereof will be furnished to interested parties upon request at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

Enchanting–and lots of spoofy fun, too

THE CURRENT FILM "ENCHANTED" lives up to its title, delighting viewers with its whimsical yet knowing story about fairytale characters who inspire some modern-day New Yorkers to dream and love again, and are in turn taught to stop living exclusively in their slap-happily fantasticating nether world.

Its protagonist is Giselle (**Amy Adams**), a cartoon figure who dreams of being swept off her feet by a fairytale prince. He (**James Marsden**) does hover into view, but his evil stepmother aborts the romance by pushing Giselle into a deep well.

After her watery ordeal, she resurfaces on Times Square, of all places, and is instantly caught up in the metro's hectic pace—the very antithesis of her idealistic and escapist mind-set.

When the prince follows Giselle to New York City to rescue her, he finds that she's fallen for a handsome divorce lawyer (**Patrick Dempsey**). Thus, the film becomes a tug of war between real and fairytale beaus, and Giselle finds herself changing in many significant ways.

Ditto for the lawyer, who is inspired by Giselle to believe again in the beauty and power of love.

To further spice up the brew, the evil queen (**Susan Sarandon**) and her henchman move heaven, earth and Never-Never Land to nip the romance in the bud.

When the mad monarch unleashes her awesome powers, the movie's visuals take a quantum leap forward to include awesome references to King Kong(!), with the queen transmogrifying herself into a gigantic dragon that scales up to the top of the Empire State Building at the movie's big-bang denouement.

Some viewers may find this all-out finale too over-the-top, but we think it's more tongue-in-cheek than anything else, and quite in keeping with the production's overall fantasticating air.

The film's weak points include its relatively clumsy handling of secondary characters like the queen's henchman and Giselle's chipmunk-sidekick. But the leads' lively and focused portrayals more than make up for these lapses, with Dempsey, Marsden and Sarandon winning top marks for their on-target work.

Sarandon, in particular, relishes her colorfully evil character, and her performance is headily phantasmagoric in effect.

For his part, Marsden makes his prince both clueless and sweetly self-obsessed, eliciting laughs with his self-disparaging portrayal.

As for Adams and Dempsey, they keep shifting between fantasy and reality but retain their believability all the while.

Other strengths include the deft and droll way that the movie spoofs old fairytale cartoon features' chintzy conventions, like singing birds and cute mice helping the fantasy female lead dress up and clean the house.

In the movie's spoof version, the birds are mangy city pigeons and the mice have become scruffy rats—and flies and cockroaches are thrown in for good measure! What icky fun—and so much for roseately romantic storytelling!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Feedback

From Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay: "Congratulations on winning the award for Best Entertainment Column at the 29th Catholic Mass Media Awards.

"I am glad that your column, 'Viewfinder,' provides readers with a breath of fresh air. In addition, you provide entertainment to people who live hectic lives."

☆☆☆

From Marnie Suarez of Quezon City: "Congratulations on your CMMA award. You are helping many people look for better productions in entertainment and the arts, as well as reminding people in show business to always keep the viewing public's welfare in mind..."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BELONGINGS

ACROSS
1 Brewing grain
5 Go by, as time
11 Hawaii "hi"
16 French for "summer"
19 Jai —
20 Howled
21 Cousin of a garlic press
22 Little guy
23 Actress Lockhart's nuptials?
25 Singer Aiken's building block?
27 Rare violin
28 Not sparse
29 Posterior
30 Regarding
31 Picnic intruder
33 Go- —
35 Car-towing gp.
36 Fashionable
37 Singer Berry's meat dish?
42 Actress Duncan's shore?
45 Skiff movers
46 Not only that
47 "Horrors!"
49 Pale — ghost
50 Single-named R&B singer
51 Islamic God
53 Valentine's Day deity
55 Red fruit
60 Comedian Cosby's rent check?
63 Road deicer
66 Balls of ice
67 "The Hill" actor Davis
68 Feingold or Tamblyn
70 Asps, e.g.
72 Rocker Zappa's debate?
77 Folksy
80 Agt. like Eliot Ness
81 Daddy
85 Even once
86 ICU part
88 Humorist Buchwald's equipment?
92 Bog
94 "— she blows!"
96 "Whoopee!"
97 — Lanka
98 Opposite of WNW
101 Adherents
103 Zapping fish
104 Urban haze
105 Singer Guthrie's seedling?
110 Quarterback Bradshaw's fabric?
113 Pale tan
114 Dr. Kildare player Ayres
115 A Romance lang.
117 Chi preceder
118 Pilots' guesses, for short
119 Dr. Pavlov
121 One at — (singly)
124 Met staging
128 Actress Duke's torte?
130 Singer Holly's method?
132 Woman in Eden
133 Deals (out)
134 Actress Sobieski
135 Cancel
136 Abode: Abbr.
137 Don't exist
138 Help
139 Go by, as time

DOWN
1 "Naked" Goya subject
2 Grad
3 Wood or Turner
4 Neckwear accessories: Var.
5 Lamb nurser
6 Actor Alan
7 Official helper
8 Tinkling metallic sounds
9 Able to feel
10 Gardening tool
11 Shoe part
12 Novelist — Jackson Braun
13 National anthem up north
14 Prime times
15 Wall St. whiz
16 Elevator pioneer Otis
17 Strategy
18 Former Big Apple mayor
24 Flirt a bit
26 Relay, e.g.
32 Singing syllables
34 Peter I, e.g.
37 Ensemble
38 "— for horses"
39 Eurasian range
40 Just
41 Partner of 132-Across
43 Fusses
44 Lamb lament
48 Wises up
51 Imitators
52 Bunch of buffalo
54 Answer back
56 Disinfectant compound
57 Teflon item
58 On, as a lamp
59 City trains
61 Permanent cons
62 French night
64 Hugo's "— Miserables"
65 Penta- minus bi-
69 Blemish permanently
71 Opium origin
73 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
74 Mother Teresa, e.g.
75 Interlace
76 A law — itself
77 Stitched edge
78 Eggs, formally
79 Sea, to Sartre
82 — Beach, California
83 1992 also-ran Ross
84 Heave — of relief
87 Watery
89 "Fer —!" ("Like, definitely!")
90 Lead-in for mensch
91 Coral producer
93 "You, over there!"
95 Piedmont wine town
99 Film editor's gizmo
100 Uplift
102 Rodin works
104 Errs
105 One sobbing
106 Re to re, say
107 Declaims
108 Powder
109 Stop dozing
111 Slurs over
112 Bok —
116 Hand drum of India
120 Kite's home
122 Cato's 1,551
123 Visual pair
125 Erupter in Sicily
126 Pete Rose's team
127 Bible book after Joel
129 Sumac of song
131 Gelatinize

answer on page F3

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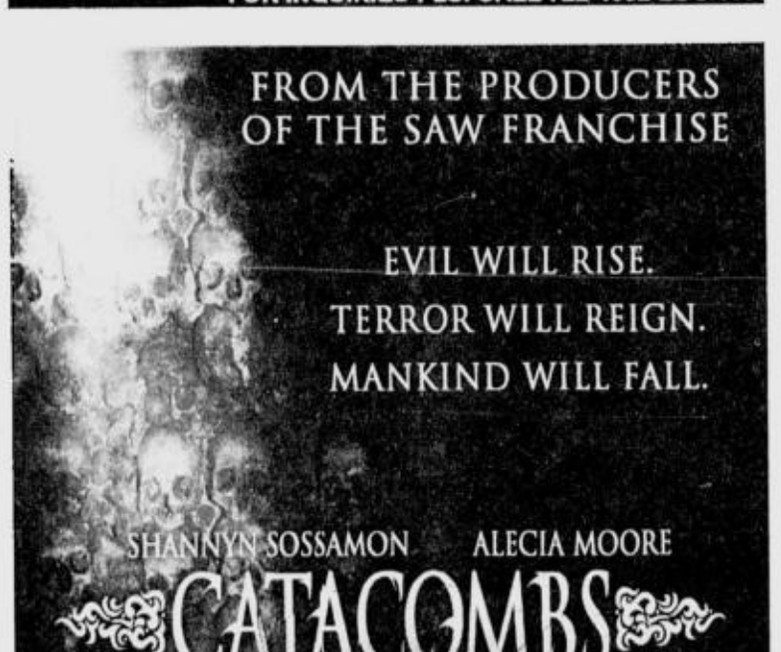

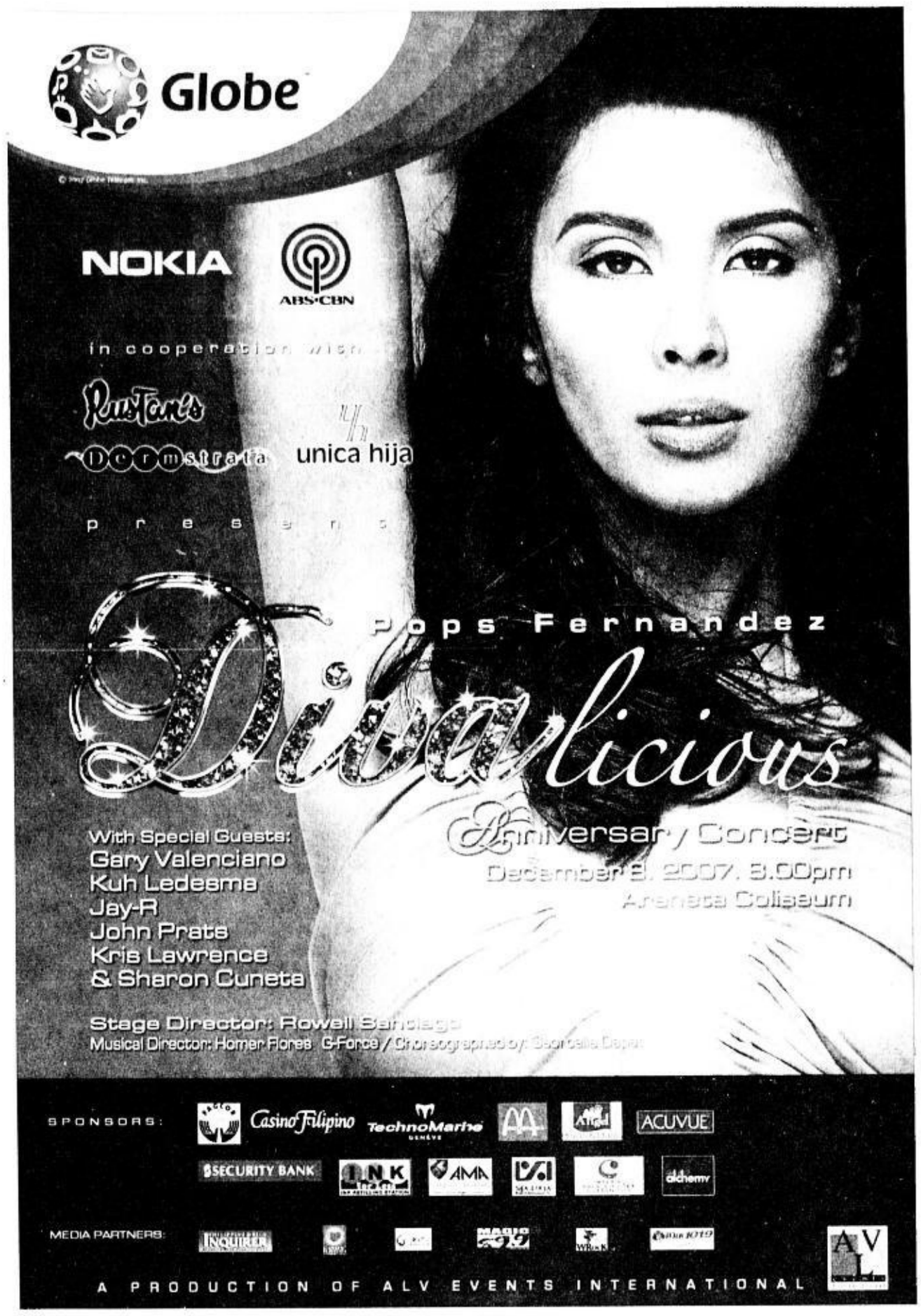

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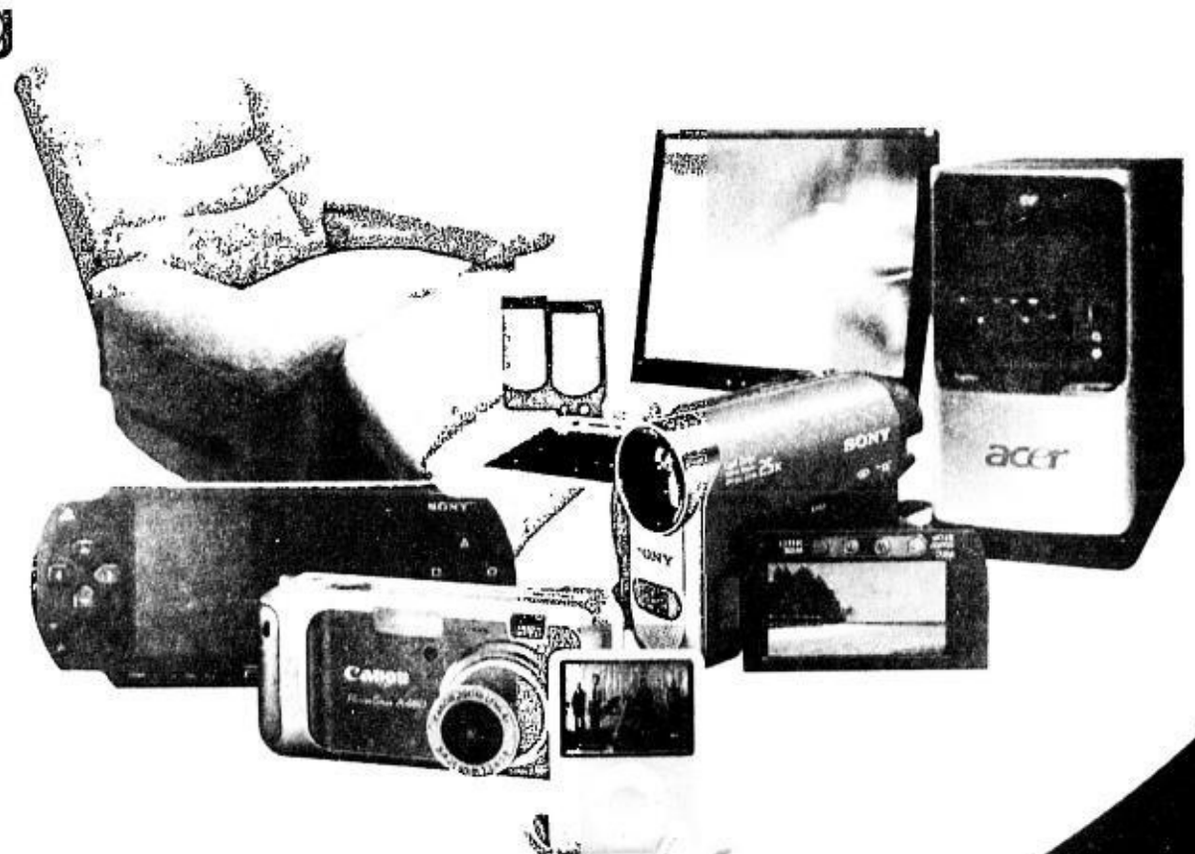

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Ruffa: This film is really for me

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO, SHE WAS reported to be patching things up with Turkish husband Yilmaz Bektas, with whom she had a prolonged and very public spat earlier this year.

Now Ruffa Gutierrez seems to have turned cold again, referring to Yilmaz as just "the father of my kids."

She said this was because she recently received an e-mail from him, asking to be called exactly that. "*Gusto ko naman s'yang pagbigyan*," the actress told entertainment writers on Tuesday. "I don't want him to think I'm using him to promote my new film. We had an agreement that I should no longer mention his name in any of my interviews."

The gathering was for Ruffa's comeback movie titled "Desperadas," Regal Entertainment's entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival next month. The Joel Lamangan film also features Rufa Mae Quinto, Iza Calzado and Marian Rivera.

However, Ruffa said Yilmaz—father of Lorin, 4, and Venice, 3—was welcome to celebrate Christmas with them here. He is currently based in Turkey. Ruffa explained, "The girls still need his guidance as their father. [And] I can't go to Istanbul just yet [on account of my] contracts here."

Immediately after the holidays, Ruffa will start work on "My Monster Mom," where she co-stars with her real-life mother Annabelle Rama. Ruffa was last seen on the big screen in the dramatic film "Halik" (1998), opposite Christopher de Leon.

Ruffa said "Desperadas" was hatched during her birthday party last year. The plan was for her to share stellar billing with Gretchen Barretto, Dawn Zulueta and Pops Fernandez.

"I'm sure you all know what happened. Had the movie pushed through with the original cast, *baka hindi kami umabot sa* film fest," Ruffa added. "I think this movie is really for me ... not so much for my three friends, [though] I'd still like to work with them one day."

Among your co-stars, who is the closest to you?

[It's like] I found three new sisters. Nobody gave me problems. *Walang nagtaray sa akin.*

I've been friends with Rufa Mae for a long time. We first worked together in my movie "Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa." Extra *pa lang s'ya du'n*. I admire her because she really paid her dues as an actress. *Ang eksena nya du'n umiiyak sa ilalim ng* horse *habang ako nasa ibabaw ng* horse.

Iza is one of the most kind-hearted persons I know. She insists on calling me *ate*, even though I don't look like an *ate*.

Marian is misunderstood. Many people say she's become conceited. I think she's just tired because she's very busy. She was never *masungit* to me. The other night she came up to me and hugged me.

Iza has a steady boyfriend. Would you say that the rest of you girls are desperate for love?

I was desperately in need of love when I was in Istanbul because I missed my family. If you ask me now ... I'd say no because Lorin and Venice are here to fill that need in my heart.

I don't think *desperada* is a negative word. I think every one has become desperate at one point in life. The most important thing is that you learn from experience. So I can say that, yes, I've been desperate [but] survivor *na ako ngayon*.

You're the only ABS-CBN talent in the main cast. Are you allowed to promote this movie on GMA 7?

I have an exclusive contract with ABS-CBN. Even if I want to promote on GMA—you know I don't want to get involved in the network wars--I have to honor my contract. I have to follow whatever the bosses say.

How similar is your character to your real self?

We both love to shop for clothes. As a mother, we're similar in the sense that we're both strict. *Kapag babae ang anak, mas iniingatan*. I totally understand how my mom felt about me when I was a teenager.

There is a scene in the movie when your character's daughter asks about the birds and the bees. Are you yourself prepared for when Lorin tells you she has a crush on someone?

I guess it will depend on how old she is [when that happens]. I hope she doesn't ask when she's just 5; I might faint. When she's 15, I can be frank with her. These things are learned in school nowadays, anyway.

Wasn't your mom supposed to be in this movie?

Yes. But Regal couldn't afford her rate. Tita Nova Villa replaced her. What you don't know about my mom is that *nagpe-presyo na rin 'yan*. We will do a commercial next year *at parang gusto pa yata akong tanggalan ng sweldo*.

TAKE FIVE

RUFFA Gutierrez at the press conference for Regal's "Desperadas," her first movie since 1998. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Her new tag for husband Yilmaz Bektas: 'Father of my kids'

Liar, liar: Singer caught flat-footed

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

THIS SINGER WAS SET TO GUEST ON a chat show hosted by a contemporary.

On the morning of the taping, Singer's manager begged off—saying his talent didn't get any sleep the previous night.

The show's staff persisted. Manager then claimed that the singer had been rushed to the hospital, downed by fever and chills.

After the taping, the TV host dropped by the wake of a friend's mother. Stunned Host bumped into the supposedly hospitalized singer at the funeral parlor.

Singer even made *beso-beso* with TV Host "as if nothing happened."

Our spy quipped, gleefully, that Singer had violated the 11th commandment: "Thou shalt not get caught."

Voice doctor

We've been told that businessman **Tony Boy Cojuangco** and Oscar winner **Julie Andrews** have the same throat doctor.

Is this why he's raring to record a duet with partner **Gretchen Barretto**?

Tony Boy and Gretchen are reportedly flying to the US to attend a big bash thrown by Hollywood dignitaries for the throat specialist.

Control freak

This actor's manager gives new meaning to "control freak."

Manager interferes in all aspects of his talent's life, including the latter's stormy relationship with a fellow celebrity.

Though the embattled girlfriend has denied the manager's meddling ways, our mole insists that the star builder even chose the colors for the walls of the actor's condo unit.

Cyber cruising

This celebrity scion has made a name for himself in the biz, so he shouldn't have problems meeting girls, right?

Not quite. He has to resort to cruising in cyberspace to hook up with star-struck girls.

Another "hunk," on the other hand, is reportedly trolling the Net for star-struck ... boys!

Retired womanizer redux

Remember the erstwhile womanizer who's now gay?

Turns out, he had an early start.

According to a mole, the macho actor once grabbed the privates of a male production assistant. At that time, he was still married.

Wild thing

Ingénue is being built up by her network as "wholesome." But in real life, she can be "wild," says a close friend.

Source refuses to elaborate, except to say that the girl deserves to be slapped silly when it comes to boys.

ANGELIKA de la Cruz

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Well, that's exactly the fate she meets in her new soap.

Unfunny comedy

RUSHES SUNDAY

Veteran producer wants a major network to co-produce a comedy movie that's already in the can.

Network execs screened the rushes and found the flick "unfunny and, therefore, unworthy," leaving the producer heartbroken.

Mari Mar mobbed

At the US Embassy, where she applied for a visa recently (for an upcoming "Mari Mar" road show in Las Vegas), **Marian Rivera** was reportedly mobbed by both local and foreign employees.

Shanghai Hilton

SHANGHAI, CHINA—American socialite **Paris Hilton** checked out Shanghai fashions, cuddled stuffed pandas and sauntered along the famous waterfront Bund on Thursday while visiting China's most style-conscious city for the MTV Style awards.

"Shanghai looks like the future!" Hilton said in a news conference. *AP*

Overdose by mistake

LOS ANGELES—The two-week-old twins of actor **Dennis Quaid** were recovering in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Wednesday after mistakenly being given a massive overdose of a blood thinning drug.

The Quaid twins, **Thomas Boone** and **Zoe Grace**, were born via a surrogate mother on Nov.8. *Reuters*

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Going, going...

• **Cindy Kurleto** bids show biz goodbye.

• **Angelika de la Cruz**, *tuloy na ang paglipat sa* Siyete.

• **Angelika**, *walang ginawa kundi lumipat nang lumipat!*

• **Joseph Bitangcol**, *lumayas sa* Kapamilya, *'di nakapaghintay sa pramis.*

• **Ara Mina**, **Cristine Reyes** *nasa* ABS-CBN *na sa* 2008?

• **Jennylyn Mercado**, *magja-*Japayuki.

• **Juday**, *bawal mag-pelikula sa* GMA Films; **Ruffa** *bawal mag-*plug *sa* Siyete.

Bigger showdown

• **Jodi Santamaria**, *mas karapat-dapat na maging* Best Actress *kaysa kay* **Sunshine Dizon**!

• **Sunshine**, *nagbayad sa* PMPC?

• **Alfie Lorenzo**, *galit na galit kay* **Lolit Solis**! *Dinadamay daw kasi sa demanda nina* **Piolo** at **Sam**! (The prospect of *this* showdown is stupefying.)

• *3 babae, tuhog ni* **Richard Gutierrez**!

• **Richard**, *pigil sa pambabae! (Pigil pa po 'yan.)*

• **Gladys Reyes**, **Nanette Medved** *parehong buntis.*

• **Danita Paner**, *malditang bata talaga! (Bakit kaya?)*

• **Regine**, **Ogie** *kinaiinisan ng ilang* OFW *sa* Hong Kong. *(Ilan?)*

• **John Prats**, *marami ang naiimbudo!*

• **Shaina's** mom prefers **Rayver**. (For Shaina—*kayo naman.*)

Wish ko lang

• **Lorna T** longs for an international award.

• **Anne Curtis** *gustong makasungkit ng* Best Actress trophy. *(Kami rin. Sa'n kaya?)*

• **Yasmien Kurdi** *lumaban ng akting kay* **Maricel Soriano**. (Gutsy.)

• **Eric Fructuoso** *naospital sa laban nila ni* **Joem Basco**.

• **Ynez Veneracion** *naaksidente sa taping ng* 'Kung Ako Ikaw.'

Heartbreaks

DITA VON TESSE, American striptease artist, during a photo call to promote her new book "Burlesque and the Art of Tesse" REUTERS

• **Sabrina M** *sa ilalim ng tulay nakatira.*

• **Mayor Vi** *naghinanakit sa* fans.

• *Traydor na* Vilmanian *kinastigo! Ate Vi grabeng magmahal sa mga fans!*

• **Pacman**, *idedemanda raw si* **Cristy Fermin**! *Sinulsulan daw kasi ng* GMA 7?

• **Cristy**, *ipakukulong ni* Manny; *'di na kaya ang* below-the-belt *na tira.*

• *Sa bantang* libel: Pacquiao *'di uurungan ni* Cristy.

NANETTE Medved

GLADYS Reyes

What a mess

• **Carlene Aguilar** says no to public apology.

• *Dahil kaya kasal kay* **Dennis**: **Carlene** *tinawag na kabit si* **Cristine**.

• Dennis' family apologizes to Cristine.

• Ara *umaming mag-*MU *sina* Dennis *at* Cristine.

• 'Dennis, *di pinanindigan si* Cristine.' —Ara

• Ara: 'My sister is not a home wrecker!' (In the tradition of Ate Guy: "My brother is not a pig!")

• Ara *bibitbitin si* Cristine *sa* abroad. (*Parang* luggage?)

• *Kaso* vs Carlene, *posibleng iurong ni* Cristine.

• Cristine, *ang gulu-gulo!* (Agree! Spin-a-win!)

• Dennis, *may sikretong malupit kaya nababaliw sina* Carlene at Cristine. (*Ay*, don't go there.)

• Cristine, *pinagpapantasyahan ni* **Kris Martinez**! (*Ang gulo nga.*)

Turning tables

• *Demandang* Piolo-Sam vs Lolit, show biz *na* show biz!

• *'Sinungaling si* Piolo!'—Lolit

• 'Feeling *ko, aping-api ako.'*—Lolit

• Lolit filing countercharges against Piolo and Sam.

• Manay Lolit *panonoorin pa rin ang* soap *ni* Sam.

• *'Hindi ko pa natatanggap ang kopya ng demanda nina* Sam at Piolo.'—Lolit

• *'Kung talagang apektado sina* Sam at Piolo *sa kuwento ko,* willing *akong makipag-usap sa kanila at mag-*sorry *uli.'*—Lolit

Happy and gay

• **Rustom** happy *sa pagiging bading!*

• Rustom *maraming kuwento sa kabadingan.*

• Pictorial *ni* **KC** *hindi malaswa. ('Di puwede kay* Mega!)

• **Mel Tiangco** *masama pa rin ang loob sa* Dos.

• Pagkatsugi sa Dos, halos ikamatay ni Mel.

No, thanks

• **Robin Padilla** *tinanggihan ni* **Cristine Reyes**.

• **Iwa Moto** *pinalitan ang nag-iinarteng si* Cristine *bilang* leading lady *ni* Robin.

• Set *ng* 'La Vendetta,' *minumulto!*

• **Jennylyn Mercado**, *biktima ng kababalaghan! Takot na takot at sigaw nang sigaw!*

• **Maxene Magalona** *bawal sa halikan! Pa'no ba 'yan,* Richard Gutierrez?

• **Iza Calzado** *tinuruang makipag-*love scene *ng baguhang aktor.*

• **Ehra** "raped" twice. (*'Di na natuto.*)

• **Francine Prieto** *ayaw ng asawang panot.*

• *Relasyong* **Vhong Navarro-Janelle Jamer**, *dinenay ni* **Desiree del Valle**.

• **Angel Locsin**, *kapalit ni* **Mariel Rodriguez** *sa* "PBBCE2"? (*Ganu'n na lang?*)

• Manager *ni* Angel, feeling *sikat.*

Plastic society

• **Rufa Mae Quinto** on romance with Dennis Trillo: *"Matagal na yun."*

• Rufa Mae, *imbiyerna kay* Carlene!

• **Ai Ai** *naloloka sa yaman ni* Rufa Mae.

• *"Saka na ang* love, career *muna."*—Rufa Mae

• *"Di kumpleto ang buhay ko!"*—**Erik Santos** (Echoing the sentiment of all Filipinos.)

• **Pops** *at* Ara, *nagplastikan sa* Star Awards for TV.

• Juday, *nakalimutang may ginawang unang* album. *(Kami rin.)*

• **Karylle**, **Jay-R** very sweet *sa isang* resto *sa* Eastwood.

JOSEPH Bitangcol

• Karylle, *itinangging may relasyon sila ni* Jay-R. (Karylle, *nakita namin sa* Zara in Trinoma, shopping with **Dingdong Dantes**.)

• *Panliligaw muli ni* **Dennis Padilla**, *'di umepek:* **Marjorie Barretto** *nag-*file *na ng* annulment.

• **Kris**, napataob ni **Edu**.

Choices, loyalties

• **Manny Pacquiao**, *nahihiya kay* Ara.

• Ara: 'Manny is loyal to Jinkee.'

• **Valerie Concepcion** *bagong syota ni* Manny?

• Child custody, *ikukonsulta ni* Ruffa *sa abogado. (Ayan na naman.)*

• **Snooky** *naudlot ang pagpapalaki ng* boobs; *pero nagpasipsip na ng taba sa braso.*

• *Kumpara kay* Richard Gutierrez, **Rhian Ramos** *mas* type *si* **Mark Herras**.

• Piolo, **Ryan Agoncillo** *nagkabati sa lamayan!*

The tragic sense of life

By Constantino C. Tejero

TRAGIC WASTE IS THE CORE of the tragedies. A sense of great loss, of what could have been, is at the heart of tales that recur through the centuries.

We know what happened to those people, we're familiar with their stories, but we don't get tired of listening or watching—from Oedipus and Orestes evolving into Hamlet, from Romeo and Juliet to their latest reincarnations in backdoors, alleys and war zones.

A counterpart to the ancient tragedies is the Doomed Celebrity biopic, the list of titles ever growing so that it now constitutes a film subgenre. (Is this symptomatic of the age?)

The story is invariably about geniuses and/or artists nipped in the bud, among them Judy Garland, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, John Lennon, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim, Morrison, Frida Kahlo—extraordinary personalities undone in their prime by either a tragic flaw in their character or a modern equivalent of fate.

MARION Cotillard plays Édith Giovanna Gassion in "La Mome."

Great Emotionalist

Among them is that Great Emotionalist, Édith Piaf, the legendary French singer who died at 47 in 1963. Her life story proves to be one of the most inexhaustible source materials for both film and theater, quite possibly because it is one of the most tragic in the classic sense.

In 1974, Guy Casaril released "Piaf—The Early Years" (a.k.a. "The Sparrow of Pigalle"). In 1981, Howard Davies came up with "Piaf," featuring the acclaimed performance of Jane LaPortaire.

Claude Lelouch's 1983 "Edith and Marcel" focused on her love affair with the married Marcel Cerdan, Europe's welterweight champ who died in a plane crash in 1949. The film starred his son.

Now comes Olivier Dahan's version, "La Môme" (a.k.a. "La Vie en Rose," or "The Passionate Life of Édith Piaf"), starring Marion Cotillard, which opened this year's Berlin International Film Festival.

It was premiered in the country in August at Cinemanila and screened again last month at Cine Europa. This one would seem like a summation of all previous Piaf biopics.

Fragmented story

Born Édith Giovanna Gassion in 1915, she was a small frail creature, thus the epithet La Môme Piaf, or The Little Sparrow. She was only 4'8", with a birdlike body and a clownish face, but with a loud, clear voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother Anetta (played by Clotilde Courau), she spent the happiest days of her childhood in a brothel run by her paternal grandmother, where she was raised by prostitutes.

Her first major heartache occurred when she was forcibly taken away by her father Louis (Jean-Paul Rouve), separating her from her surrogate mothers, to live with him in the traveling circus where he was a contortionist.

From being a melancholy errand girl in the circus, she soon evolved into a singer on the streets of Paris with her pal Mômone (Sylvie Testud).

Piaf started singing at 9 and professionally at 15. As early as then, people noted her lung power: personages like the nightclub impresario Louis Leplée (Gérard Depardieu); the poet-musician Raymond Asso (Marc Barbé); the long-suffering talent manager Louis Barrier (the smoldering Pascal Greggory)—who guided her to the top.

The film traces her phenomenal rise from street to cabaret to music hall, moving in the rarefied world of Charles Aznavour and Jean Cocteau, until her name became sacrosanct on both sides of the Atlantic. She was a supporter of the French Resistance, and the discoverer of Yves Montand, who became her lover.

But, as everyone knows, the gods are jealous of the fortune of mortals. And so every other affliction was visited upon our hapless heroine—from parental abandonment and the threat of blindness, to alcoholism, car accident, morphine addiction and rheumatism, to the loss of a beloved father figure, her own neglected child, and the love of her life.

Probably to underscore a chaotic life and some really messy affairs, Dahan wields a frenetic camerawork and choppy editing. We can take fragmentary narrative, which French film has been specializing in since the heyday of Godard, but here the scenes aren't just fragmented, they're virtually minced.

Emotional pitch

Even before the viewer has finished mulling over the situation on screen, or finds time to process the idea or relish the emotion, the scene rapidly changes from the present to flashback to flash-forward, so that almost every sequence feels like coitus interruptus.

Add to this the heroine's abrasive character, plus her capricious behavior and loud tantrums, and many of the scenes sound shrill, indeed.

But there are quiet, potent scenes: 5-year-old Èdith (Manon Chevallier) with prostitute Titine (a horribly deglamorized Emmanuelle Seigner) visiting the shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus at Lisieux, to pray for her recovery from keratitis; her first date with Cerdan (Jean-Pierre Martins) at a Manhattan deli; meeting Marlene Dietrich (Caroline Silhol) in a New York club.

Certainly the film's highlight is the episode when she receives news of Cerdan's death. It is a hallucinatory sequence done in one long elegant take, the camera following her as she runs from bedroom to living room through hallway and out to the concert stage and bursts into "Hymn to Love."

(In "Piaf," LaPortaire does a more restrained but no less powerful rendition of this episode in which, after she has received the news, the scene segues into her onstage as she sings "La Vie en Rose," staggers and collapses like a bird with a broken wing.)

Cotillard's performance, for now, is definitive. Her range, from the vibrant adolescent Èdith to the prematurely dying Piaf, is frankly astonishing.

In the film's last sequence, the scenes change from her deathbed to a flashback of her as a child to a final luminous shot of her singing "No, I Regret Nothing," her devastated face in the spotlight, a white tragic mask evoking wasteland.

Here, in a moment of calm acceptance and firm resolve, as the fever subsides, she attains an apotheosis *à la grecque*.

Aretha reveals one career frustration

...even as she releases new CD, 'All-Star Duets with the Queen'

NEW YORK—ARETHA Franklin recounts working with greats like Frank Sinatra, Luther Vandross and Whitney Houston on her latest CD with such nonchalance, you might think she was discussing the weather.

It's not for lack of interest—the Queen of Soul calls "Jewels of the Crown: All-Star Duets With The Queen," a "brilliant" album.

It's just that, unlike her raw performances, the legend rarely betrays much emotion in interviews.

Still, she can get animated, and when she does, it's a surprising subject that draws her ire: Hollywood. Though Franklin had bit parts in the "Blues Brothers" movies and is trying to put together her own biopic, she wishes that she had had a larger presence in that medium.

ARETHA Franklin regrets she never made it to Hollywood. AP

Color barrier

"I have not gotten the offers from Hollywood that I would have liked to have gotten," Franklin, 65, said during a recent phone interview with The Associated Press. "I don't understand why it's so hard for longtime artists in the music industry who have numerous awards and citations and things like that to even get a pittance of an offer from Hollywood. What is the problem?"

Franklin believes the answer is color barrier. And she notes that many of her peers have fallen victim to the same problem.

"Other celebrated women like Dionne (Warwick) and Natalie (Cole) and Roberta Flack ... people like that, they weren't offered anything either. It's just so unfair."

Franklin doesn't believe it's getting any better for black entertainers, despite recent Oscar wins by the likes of Halle Berry and Jennifer Hudson.

"It's a little disappointing to see in 2007 that that kind of thing still happens, and you've got a huge set of double standards there," she says. "Halle Berry is only one person —please!"

TV series

Franklin says opportunities in Hollywood for blacks come only when they create opportunities for themselves. To that end, she's working with producers to create a film about her own life, in which she'd like to see Berry, Hudson, or even Fantasia (who is featured on the new CD) portray her. Plans for a feature film fell through, but Franklin is in talks with a network to do a two-part series. A play is also in the works.

But her focus remains music. Though she has been working on an album of new material for own label, Aretha Records, she decided to release "Jewels of the Crown" at the urging of record mogul Clive Davis, who produced the record. It has new tracks on it, including a duet with John Legend and another with Fantasia. But mostly it's previous collaborations with some of pop's greatest voices.

Luther Vandross is one of the luminaries, featured on "Doctor's Orders." For Franklin, hearing the duet with Vandross, who died two years ago, "brought back very, very pleasant, fun, and of course sad memories."

SHE'S thinking Jennifer Hudson could portray her in a biopic.

SPIN

Franklin recalls Vandross wasn't in the best mood when she entered the studio.

"But once we got there and we started talking and laughing — Luther could really crack you up— he was back to his old self," she says. "We just put it down."

Houston, who has known Franklin for a lifetime, had a more difficult time on the sassy duet, "It Isn't, It Wasn't, It Ain't Ever Gonna Be."

"She had a bit of a problem [with] some of the dialogue where it was supposed to be a kind of a put-down and a diss to me," says Franklin. "I suggested she just try to be a little bit of an actress for it, because of her respect for me. But she got through it."

Franklin says that, of all the duets, her song with Sinatra may have been the most memorable. But there are two performers that she wishes would have made the cut: fellow Detroit natives and legends Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson. She has done concerts with them, but has never recorded with either.

Franklin hopes that can change: "We should do a whole album together." *Nekesa Mumbi Moody, AP*

ROUNDUP

Billboard's top 10

THIS IS THE LIST OF THE BEST-selling recorded music in the United States as it appears in next week's issue of Billboard magazine, compiled from a national sample of sales reports provided by SoundScan, radio playlists and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems:

1) "No One," Alicia Keys. J/RMG.

2) "Kiss Kiss," Chris Brown Featuring T-Pain. Jive/Zomba.

3) "Apologize," Timbaland Featuring OneRepublic. Mosley/Blackground/Interscope.

4) "Low," Flo Rida Featuring T-Pain. Poe Boy/Atlantic.

5) "Bubbly," Colbie Caillat. Universal Republic.

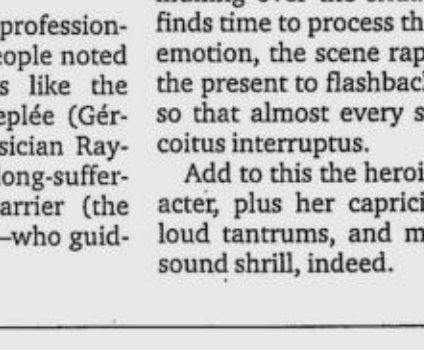
6) "Crank That (Soulja Boy)," Soulja Boy. Colli-Park/Interscope.

7) "Good Life," Kanye West Featuring T-Pain. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.

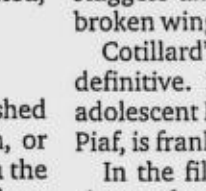
8) "Clumsy," Fergie. will.i.am/A&M/Interscope.

9) "Cyclone," Baby Bash Featuring T-Pain. Arista/RMG.

10) "Stronger," Kanye West, Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG. *AP*


ALICIA Keys REUTERS

Row over Crosby exhibit


BING Crosby

RENO, Nevada—Thirty years after the death of crooner Bing Crosby, angry family members and friends are accusing Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum of disrespecting his legacy by drastically scaling back its Crosby exhibit.

Crosby's niece, Carolyn Schneider, said the museum had the second largest public Crosby memorabilia collection in the US until it was dismantled this past summer. Gonzaga University in Crosby's hometown of Spokane, Washington, has the largest.

While the crooner's widow Kathryn did not wish to publicly comment, she privately expressed disappointment over the action, Schneider said.

"To take that away from him is very unfair. It diminishes his show business career and importance to Elko and Elko County," said Schneider, author of "Me and Uncle Bing."

Hobie Wilson, president of the Bing's Friends and Collectors Society, said the museum's move was insulting: "(It) was a slap in the face to Crosby fans all over the world."

Museum Director Claudia Wines acknowledges Crosby's contributions to the mining and ranching town about 300 miles east of Reno. But she said the museum's mission is to feature items from the region, and she won't reconsider the decision to only show memorabilia from Crosby's Elko days.

Crosby was a popular entertainer of the 20th century—on stage, radio, movies and television. His recording of "White Christmas" was for decades the biggest selling single of all time. He won the 1944 Best Actor Academy Award for "Going My Way."

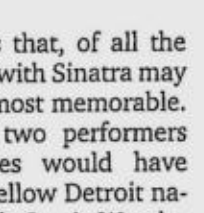
Crosby died at 74 on a golf course in Spain in October 1977. *AP*

Maria Clara image

Is Maria Clara dead?

Tonight, Sharon Cuneta discusses the prevalent issue between the two sexes and their relationship with each other in "Sharon" on ABS-CBN.

Three female celebrities–Asia Agcaoili, Julianna Palermo and Alessandra de Rossi–give insights on whether the Maria Clara image of Filipinas still prevails over liberated ideals.


DINGDONG Dantes

Sergio fans day

"MariMar" male lead Dingdong Dantes, who plays Spanish heartthrob Sergio, will hold a grand fans' day today at SM Taytay.

This opportunity to meet and greet Dingdong will have a live telecast on GMA 7's "Showbiz Central."

Sergio fans are invited to head toward the new SM mall this afternoon.

'Alvin and the Chipmunks'

"ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS" GOES TO the big screen in a story which charts their evolution from cheeky animals to international singing superstars.

The fictional musical trio was created in the '50s by the late Ross Bagdasarian Sr. when he stumbled on a unique sound while experimenting with a song's playback.

Ross Bagdasarian Jr. and his wife Janice Karman have kept the franchise alive and are producing the new movie starring Jason Lee for Twentieth Century Fox, which opens in local theaters in January.

SIMON, Alvin and Theodore Chipmunk, with creator Ross Bagdasarian, Sr.

The movie focuses on aspiring songwriter Dave Seville (Jason Lee), who, together with The Chipmunks, finds a new lease on life as they team up to write and perform songs.

Why did you revive "Alvin and the Chipmunks"?

I was just getting out of law school and my dad had unfortunately passed away at 52 years old. I didn't want The Chipmunks to pass away prematurely with him.

Why chipmunks?

He was trying to decide whether they'd be chipmunks or antelopes or flying saucers or whatever. One day he was driving his car through Yosemite National Park and a tiny little chipmunk jumped out onto the road. He was amused by the audacity of that tiny thing standing in the way of the road. The names came from record executives my dad knew—Alvin, Simon and Theodore. The song came out in 1958 and became the fastest selling song in the history of music at that time.

The huge success of The Chipmunks must have changed everything for your dad and the family.

It did. Before Chipmunks, we just had $200 to our name. And when I say our name, I mean my dad, my mum and the three children with a mortgage to pay. My dad, being an incredibly crazy, funny, "take-a-chance" kind of guy, took $190 of the $200 and spent it on the latest state of the art tape recorder that allowed him to switch speeds. The Chipmunks changed our lives because we suddenly had money and got a swimming pool which was great because it was really hot where we lived.

Who are The Chipmunks and what are they like?

Alvin has a lot of bravado and dives in, he is impetuous. Simon is the studious one with glasses who's got that kind of dry wit. Theodore is the gullible, naive baby who's the most in need of love and support.

KID FIT

'Bindi: The Jungle Girl'

Starting Dec. 3, Bindi Irwin, nine-year-old daughter of the Croc Hunter Steve and Terri Irwin, will be known as "Bindi: The Jungle Girl" in her new wildlife series on Animal Planet airing weekdays, 6 to 6:30 p.m., with replays on Saturdays, 4 p.m.

From her perch in a two-story high tree house in the jungle, Bindi introduces viewers to her wonderful world of wildlife.

BINDI Irwin

Pyro musical shows

Pyro musical shows continue to be an attraction at the SM Mall of Asia every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Different fireworks display is showcased every week accompanied by happy and danceable music.

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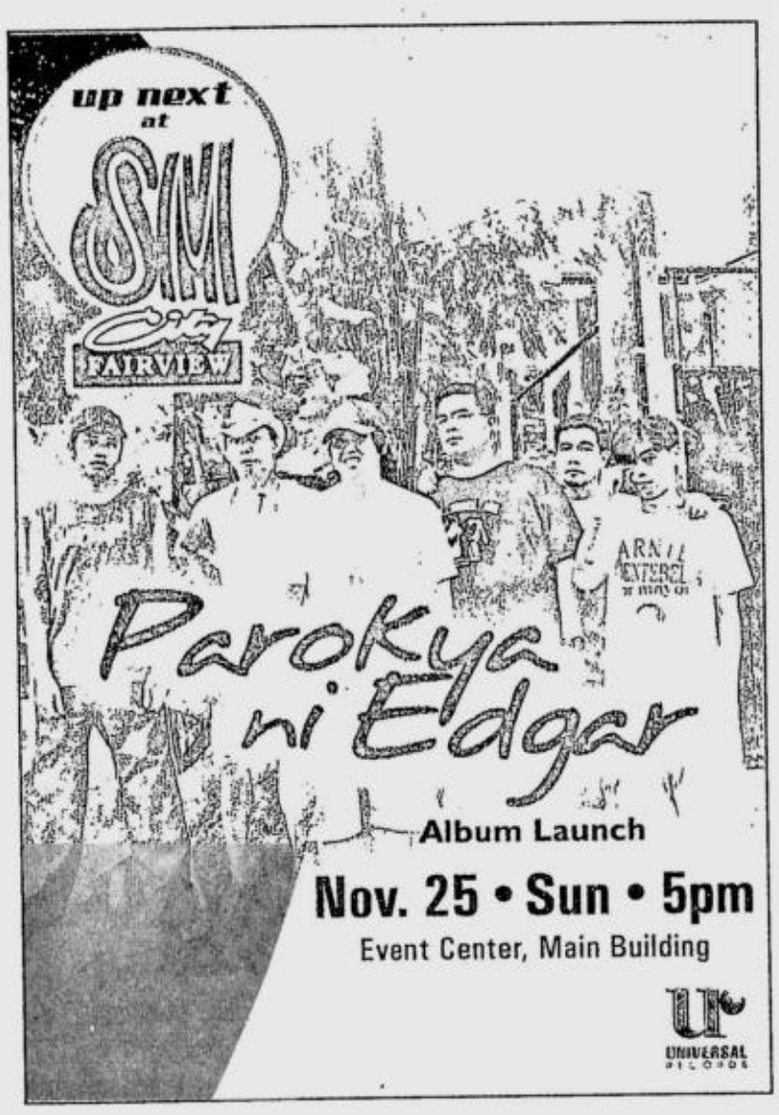

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Seal laughs off Heidi's 'package' comment

ALL ABOUT packaging: Heidi Klum saw Seal in shorts and was impressed.

LOS ANGELES—WHILE WAITing for our turn to interview **Seal** at a hotel villa, a baby crawled near our feet. As we said "hi" to the boy, a woman in jeans, sans makeup, picked him up.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

He hears about Kuh's divine version of his 'Love's Divine'

It was **Heidi Klum**, of course, being a regular mom this afternoon while her husband was holding one-on-one interviews downstairs in the villa's living room. Away from the Victoria's Secret ramp and the "Project Runway" set, Heidi looked surprisingly simple.

Add singer to the German model's credentials. In "System," Seal's first studio album in four years, she sings with her husband in "Wedding Day," which he wrote on the morning they were married in 2005. The song is bound to be an instant staple among couples and at weddings and anniversary parties. "I hear her sing in the house all the time," said the Grammy winning-songwriter, who was slumped on a sofa, his boots-clad feet up on the coffee table. "She is a natural. I am so proud that she is able to do that."

"Did you watch Oprah?" asked the man whose most popular song is "Kiss from a Rose," the theme song from "Batman Forever." We replied that we did not catch the episode where he and Heidi guested. We informed him that all the news stories highlighted the part where his wife told the world about seeing his "package" for the first time. "I will tell my wife," he said with a laugh. "That is crazy."

For those who missed this scintillating moment in "The **Oprah Winfrey** Show's" history, here was what Heidi reportedly said about seeing Seal in shorts: "He just came in from the gym and I was sitting there, and I was like, 'Wow.' And I pretty much saw everything. The whole package."

When we inquired if he was embarrassed, Seal smiled and answered, "She says embarrassing things all the time."

If Heidi can sing, what about his kids? "Our son who is only 2 years old knows every word to this album," the father proudly

SEAL/ I2

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
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3 ANIMAHENASYON:
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7 GREEN PARADISE
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8 THE NANNY DIARIES
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

9 ENCHANTED
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10 BEOWULF
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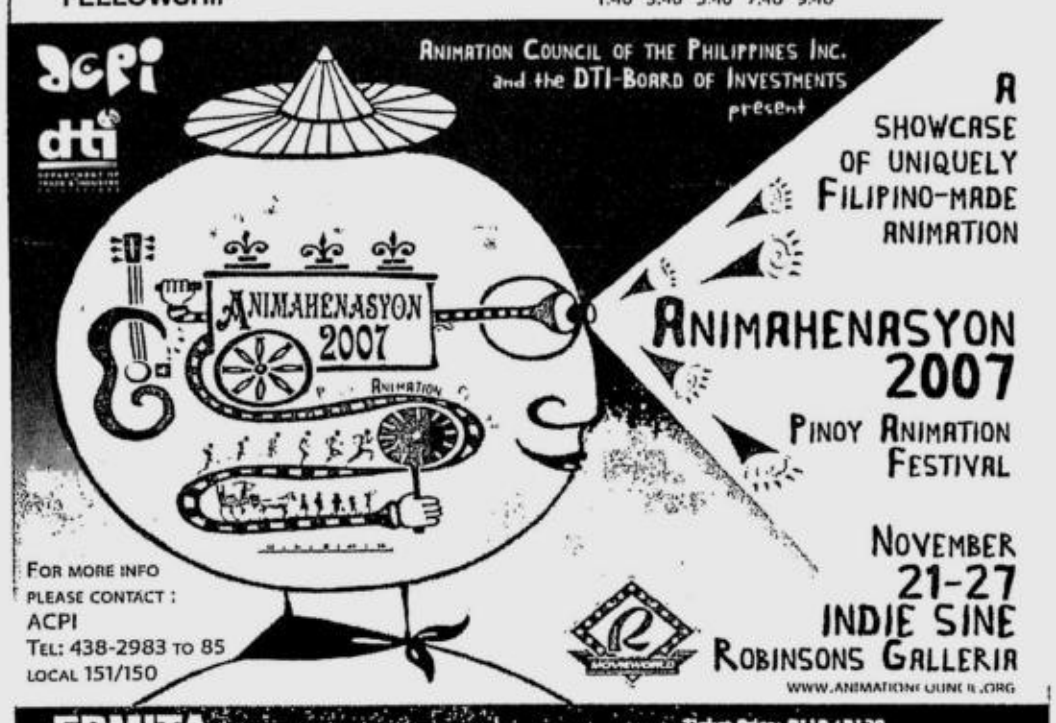

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3 ENCHANTED
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4 GREEN PARADISE
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5 BEOWULF
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6 THE NANNY DIARIES
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7 BOOGEYMAN 2
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

1 GAME PLAN
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2 ENCHANTED
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
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3 THE NANNY DIARIES
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4 ENCHANTED
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5 GAME PLAN 12:30 2:40
LIONS FOR LAMBS 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 BEOWULF
1:05 3:35 6:20 9:00

7 HITMAN
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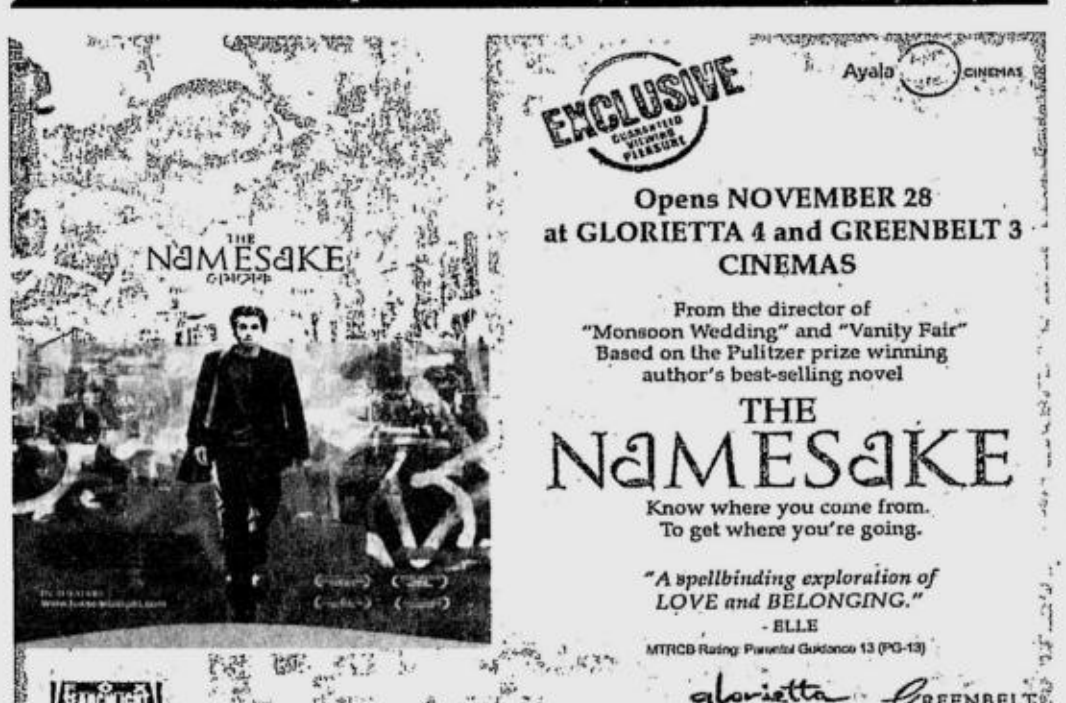

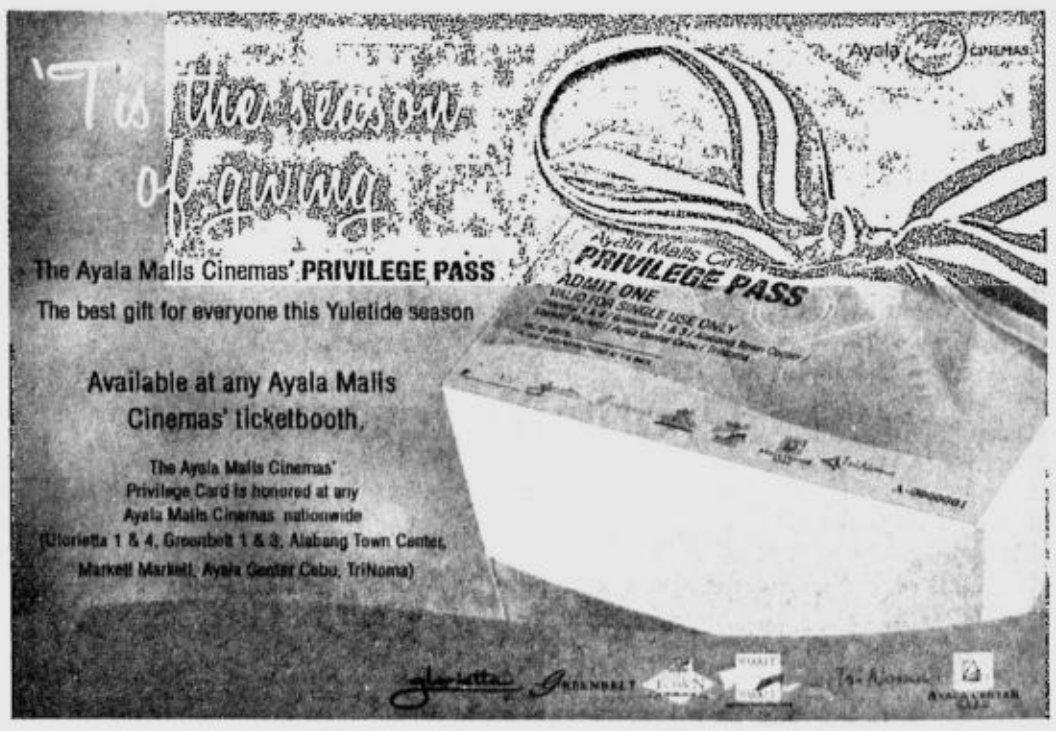
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Seal laughs...

From page 11

shared. "He sings it. He can't speak yet but he sings it. Incredible, I tell you." That's. **Henry Gunther Ademola Dashtu.** The baby who was charming journalists upstairs in one of the villa's two bedrooms is **Johan Riley Fyodor Taiwo.** Their father's real name is just as kilometric: **Seal Henry Olusegun Olumide Adeola Samuel.** The last one is his last name.

The couple has a daughter, **Helene,** 3, Heidi's child from a previous relationship. Seal seems to dote on her—he called her his "princess."

Breaking barriers

Seal and Heidi are among the most popular and glamorous mixed-race couples in Hollywood. When he was told that **Halle Berry,** who plays a woman married to David Duchovny in "Things We Lost in the Fire," hopes that someday mixed-race couples would be the norm, not the exception, in films, the London-born artist said, "Yes, I agree. I am glad she said that. The reality is that there are still people who... make an issue or point about mixed-race couples. But I think those barriers are being broken down. People are beginning to be less concerned with colors."

Since "System" was produced by **Stuart Price,** whose credit includes Madonna's "Confessions On a Dance Floor," it's full of upbeat music, just like his eponymous-titled debut album. The album is being hailed as Seal's most danceable album in years. Before he became an international pop star, Seal was a hot name in UK's night club and rave scene.

He clarified that the back-to-his-roots tag of "System" was more because he "went back to the guitar." He wrote two of his early hits, "Killer" (with techno artist **Adamski**) and "**Crazy**" on guitar.

So how was Seal 17 years ago, before the three Grammy awards and millions of albums sold? "I had more hair," he responded with a chuckle. "But I still have the zest and passion for music—it's stronger than ever."

He confirmed what he told us in a press conference for the **Will Smith** movie, "The Pursuit of Happyness" (he wrote the theme song, "A Father's Way")—that he still composes at night when their LA home is quiet.

We shared with him that we better appreciated his song, "Love's Divine," when we heard a Filipina singer (Kuh **Ledesma,** take a bow) sing that ballad as her opening number in an LA concert a few years ago. From then on, every time we heard that Seal song on the radio, we paid more attention to it.

The muse

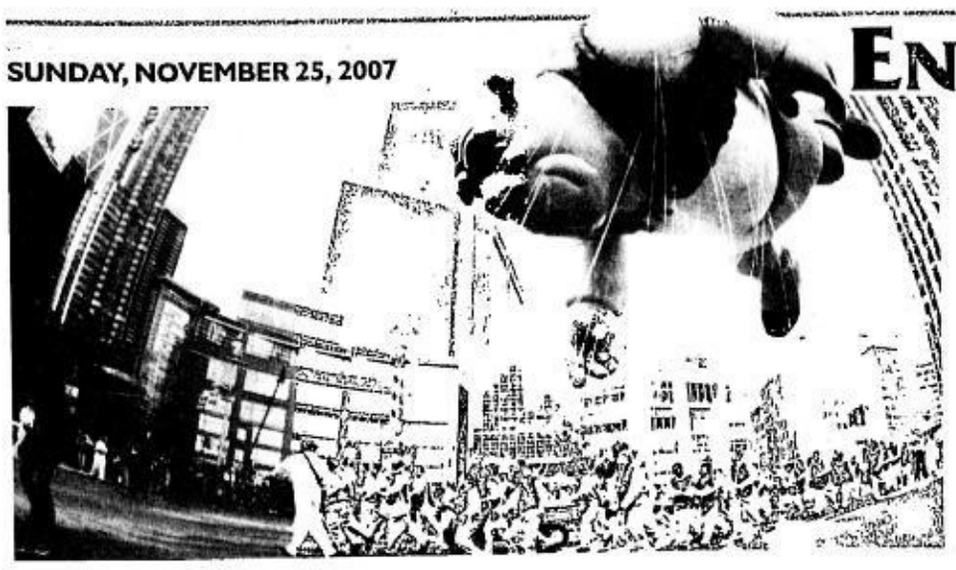
Kuh opened our ears to the song's themes of faith and inspiration. Since then, we've always wondered about Seal's muse for the song. He offered it to us: "It's about somebody who is searching and one time he and his companion were caught in a rainstorm—they had everything that they needed most which is love. They had a religious experience."

We hope he hears Kuh's version someday, we said to Seal. He asked for the spelling of her name. "Kuh Ledesma," he said several times, seemingly trying to memorize the name. "It is always good when somebody sings your song," Seal stated.

So what's next for him? "I'll prepare for the next album so it won't take four years again before I come up with a new one," he vowed with a laugh.

As we drove away from the villa and turned on the radio, guess which song came on? "Love's Divine," of course.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



FLYING SHREK
A Shrek balloon is pulled through Columbus Circle during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on Thursday in New York.
AP

FEEDBACK

Best News Program?

FROM Florian A. Alburo (falburo@yahoo.com), University of the Philippines:

The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) has had some history and credibility in their annual awards given to excellence in media in many categories. But in this year's award for "Best News Program" given to "24-Oras," one wonders if the bar of the CMMA has fallen to mediocrity.

"24-Oras" introduces its anchors as if they are not news reporters, but newsmakers—"*maaasahan*," "*lumalaban*," "*pinagkakatiwalaan*," "*laging patas*." Have you ever seen Dan Rather introduced profusely or Tom Brokaw described as fearless?

Of its 66 minutes total running time, only 36 minutes are actually left after all the ads. Take away 22 percent (8 minutes) by "Chikka-Minute," which isn't news unless you're a voyeur for who's cavorting whom or who is preggy. (At least GMA 7 is honest in introducing the reporter as "*kasama si* Pia Guanio" but which is completely negated by putting this as integral to "24-Oras"!).

Take away another 22 percent (8 minutes) of "Alert-to-24," mostly crime stories showing footage of snatch victims confronting their perpetrators, shouting and slapping: end of news.

And do you know how much of "24-Oras" is devoted to international news? When the Myanmar crisis was brewing and CNN was devoting more than 5 minutes of air time to this story (09/28/07), what was the only international story in "24-Oras" for less than a minute? A robot capable of more flexible movements! This leaves 24 minutes for real news, which of course includes its own ad for "Kapusong Totoo" and all the other introductions.

Does this deserve a "Best News Program" award? GMA's own news radio program (594 AM) is worse. But that is another story.

MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
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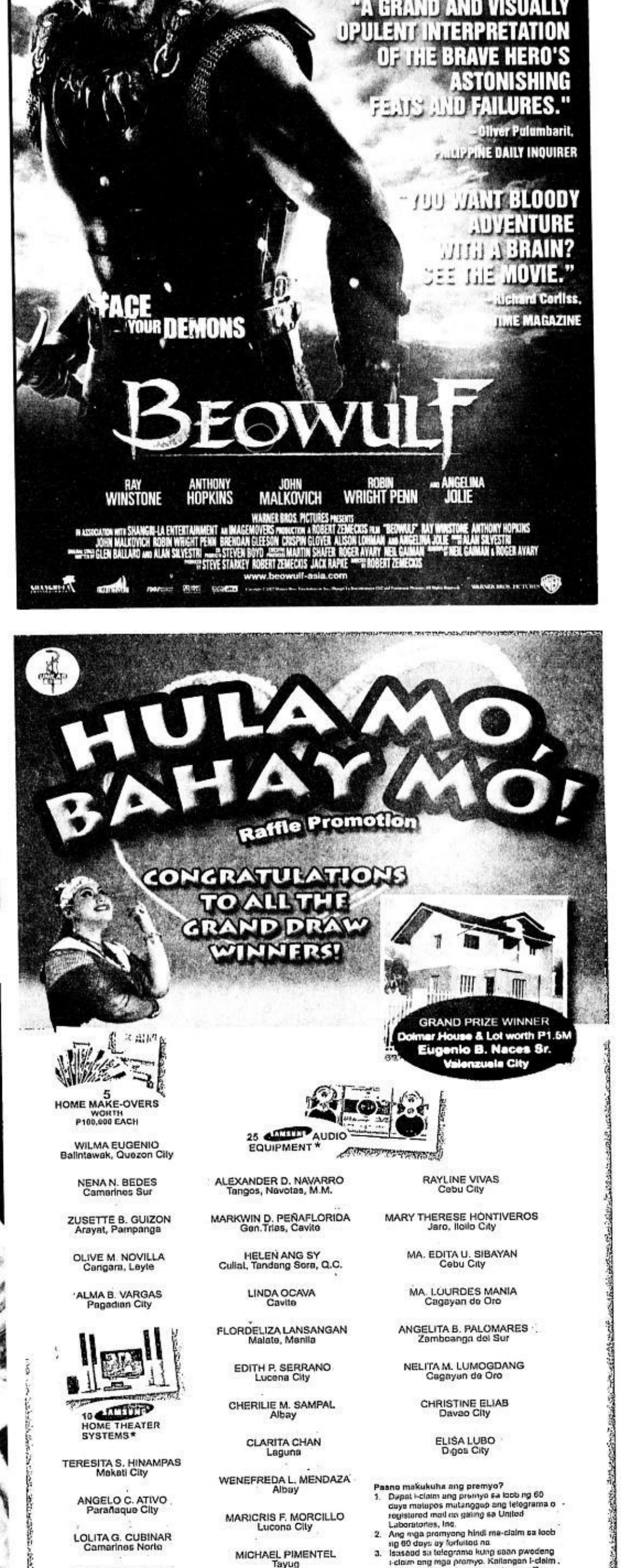
OPENS NOVEMBER 28
VIVA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-Mario Bautista, People's Journal
"A GRAND AND VISUALLY OPULENT INTERPRETATION OF THE BRAVE HERO'S ASTONISHING FEATS AND FAILURES."
-Oliver Pulumbarit, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
"YOU WANT BLOODY ADVENTURE WITH A BRAIN? SEE THE MOVIE."
-Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE
FACE YOUR DEMONS
BEOWULF
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OPENS DECEMBER 5
FROM NEW LINE CINEMA THE PRODUCER OF "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" TRILOGY
FORCES WILL GATHER.
COURAGE WILL BE TESTED.
AND THE FIGHT FOR HUMANITY WILL BEGIN.
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ALEXANDER D. NAVARRO, Tangos, Navotas, M.M.
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HELEN ANG SY, Culiat, Tandang Sora, Q.C.
LINDA OCAVA, Cavite
FLORDELIZA LANSANGAN, Malate, Manila
EDITH P. SERRANO, Lucena City
CHERILIE M. SAMPAL, Albay
CLARITA CHAN, Laguna
WENEFREDA L. MENDAZA, Albay
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ELIZA CARIAGA, Isabela
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DIGNA L. ARIMATEA, Tuguegarao City
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LYN DESTUA, Lapaz, Iloilo City
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MARY THERESE HONTIVEROS, Jaro, Iloilo City
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MA. LOURDES MANIA, Cagayan de Oro
ANGELITA B. PALOMARES, Zamboanga del Sur
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CHRISTINE ELIAB, Davao City
ELISA LUBO, Digos City
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ROLANDO B. GADIA, Pagbilao, Quezon
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Paano makukuha ang premyo?
1. Dapat i-claim ang premyo sa loob ng 60 days matapos matanggap ang telegrama o registered mail na galing sa United Laboratories, Inc.
2. Ang mga premyong hindi ma-claim sa loob ng 60 days ay forfeited na.
3. Isasaad sa telegrama kung saan pwedeng i-claim ang mga premyo. Kailangan i-claim ng grand draw winner ang prize sa office ng United Laboratories, Inc., 66 United St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.
4. Sa pag-claim ng prizes, kailangang magpakita ng (2) valid IDs na may picture at signature katulad ng signature sa coupon at may picture. Kailangan din magpakita ng TIN (Tax Identification No.) Pwede ipakita ang alin sa mga sumusunod: SSS ID, Company or School ID, Driver's License, Credit Card with picture, Passport, Senior Citizen's ID, kasama ng official letter o telegrama mula sa United Laboratories, Inc.
5. Ang winner na menor de edad (edad na mas mababa sa 18 years old) ay dapat i-represent ng mga magulang o guardian. Kailangang may-present ng proof tulad ng birth certificate o order of appointment mula sa korte. Kailangan ring dalhin ang telegrama at IDs ng mga magulang o guardian.
6. Ang pamasahe at iba pang gastos ng grand prize winner sa pagkuha ng kanyang premyo ay sagot ng United Laboratories, Inc.
7. Ang winner ay dapat pumayag na mabanggit ang kanyang pangalan sa radio, TV at iba pang mass media.
*Actual unit may vary.
DOST-ITAD Permit No. 0703 S 2007

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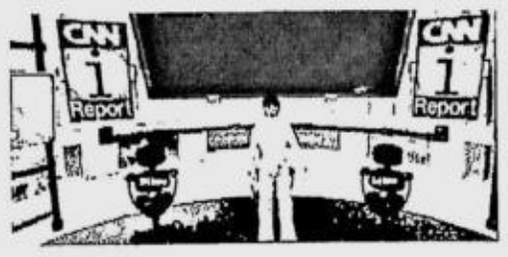
CNN virtual world



CNN WORLDWIDE HAS ANNOUNCED the opening of a hub within Second Life, a Internet-based three-dimensional virtual world.

Just as CNN asks its audience to submit iReports—user-generated content submitted from cell phones, computers, cameras and other equipment for broadcast and online reports—the network invites the residents of Second Life to share their own "SL iReports" about events occurring within the virtual world.

"The thing we most hope to gain by having a CNN presence in Second Life is to learn about virtual worlds and understand what news is most interesting and valuable to their residents," said Susan Grant, executive vice president of CNN News Services.

When Second Life residents observe an in-world event, they can take snapshots, shoot video, or write a report about the event and submit to CNN with a click.

Submissions selected by CNN iReport producers will go back into Second Life as SL iReports for residents to view throughout the virtual world.

SL iReports may also be viewed and discussed in the real world at CNN.com's SL iReport blog at www.CNN.com/secondlife, where users are invited to share comments and subscribe to daily e-mail updates sent via Real Simple Syndication (RSS).

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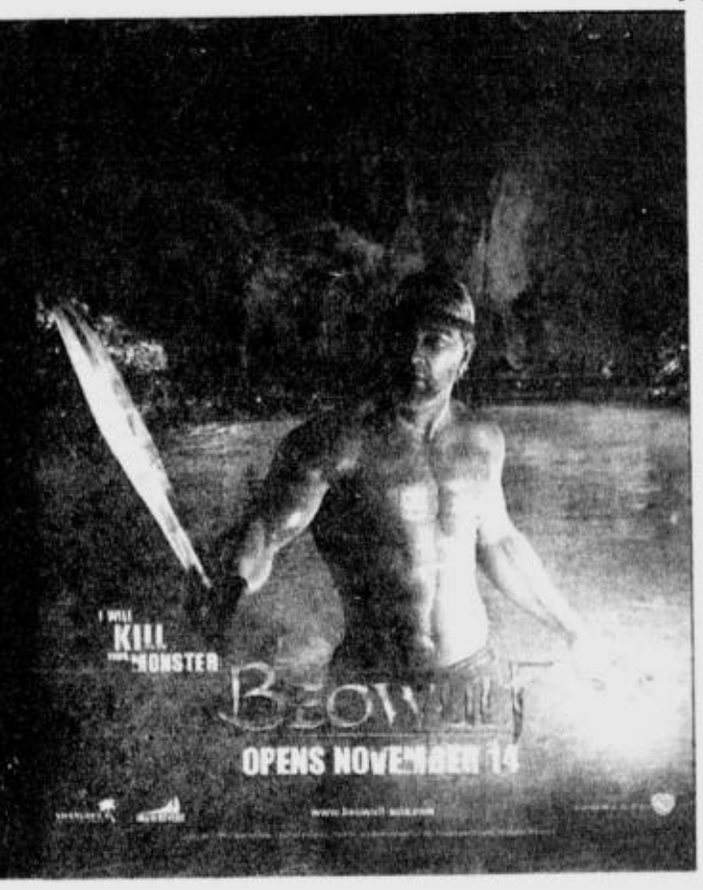
Please call 929 5452 for inquiries.



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12:30 PM • 3:00 PM • 7:00 PM • 9.30 PM
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11:00 AM • 5:30 PM
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
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ONE MORE CHANCE
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ONE MORE CHANCE
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ENCHANTED
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 BEOWULF (DIGITAL 3D)
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 HITMAN
6 BEOWULF
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 ENCHANTED
9 THE NANNY DIARIES/ 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 BOOGEYMAN 2
11 THE GAME PLAN
12 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 ENCHANTED
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 HITMAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 BOOGEYMAN 2
9 BEOWULF
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12 THE GAME PLAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 HITMAN
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 THE GHOST SON
11 ENCHANTED
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HITMAN
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESERVED
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 ENCHANTED
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 HITMAN
2 BEOWULF
3 WWE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 ENCHANTED
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HITMAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 THE NANNY DIARIES
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 LIONS FOR LAMBS

NOW OPENING
SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 862 5693
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 ENCHANTED
6 RESERVED
7 BOOGEYMAN
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 THE GAME PLAN
11 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

Experience the enchantment of Hong Kong Disneyland with
ENCHANTED
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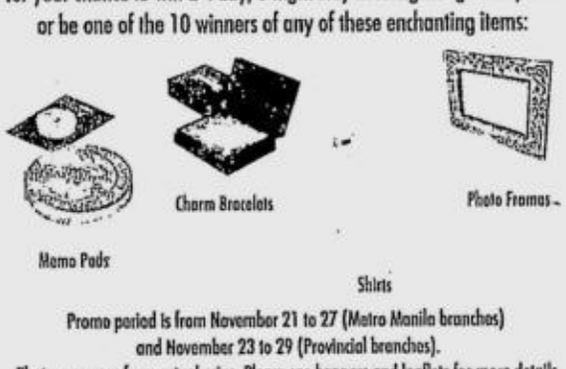
Buy 2 tickets of the movie at any SM Cinema branch nationwide for your chance to win a 4-day, 3-night stay at Hong Kong Disneyland or be one of the 10 winners of any of these enchanting items:



Promo period is from November 21 to 27 (Metro Manila branches) and November 23 to 29 (Provincial branches).
Photo may vary from actual prize. Please see banners and leaflets for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5804 Series of 2007
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LUZON

SM CITY OLONGAPO (047)6037081-86
1 ENCHANTED
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 HITMAN
6 BEOWULF
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 ENCHANTED
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 BOOGEYMAN 2

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 ENCHANTED
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 BOOGEYMAN 2

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3180
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY BASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 BEOWULF
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED

NOW OPENING
SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 EL CANTANTE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037081-86
1 HITMAN
2 THE GHOST SON
3 BEOWULF
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 ENCHANTED
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 UNREST

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BEOWULF
2 THE NANNY DIARIES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 ENCHANTED

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO (088)859-2884
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 THE GHOST SON
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 BEOWULF
6 EL CANTANTE
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 HITMAN
2 ENCHANTED
3 BEOWULF
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 THE GHOST SON
6 ATAUL FOR RENT
7 BALLS OF FURY
8 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 BEOWULF
4 BALLS OF FURY

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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ONE MORE CHANCE PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	ENCHANTED G 11:10,1:30,3:50, 6:10,8:30	BEOWULF PG13 12:10,2:45,5:20, 7:55,10:30
HITMAN R13 1:15,3:30,5:45, 8:00,10:15	NANNY DIARIES G 12:00,2:00,4:00 HITMAN R13 6:15,8:30	ENCHANTED G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE GAMEPLAN
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Araneta Center · Globe
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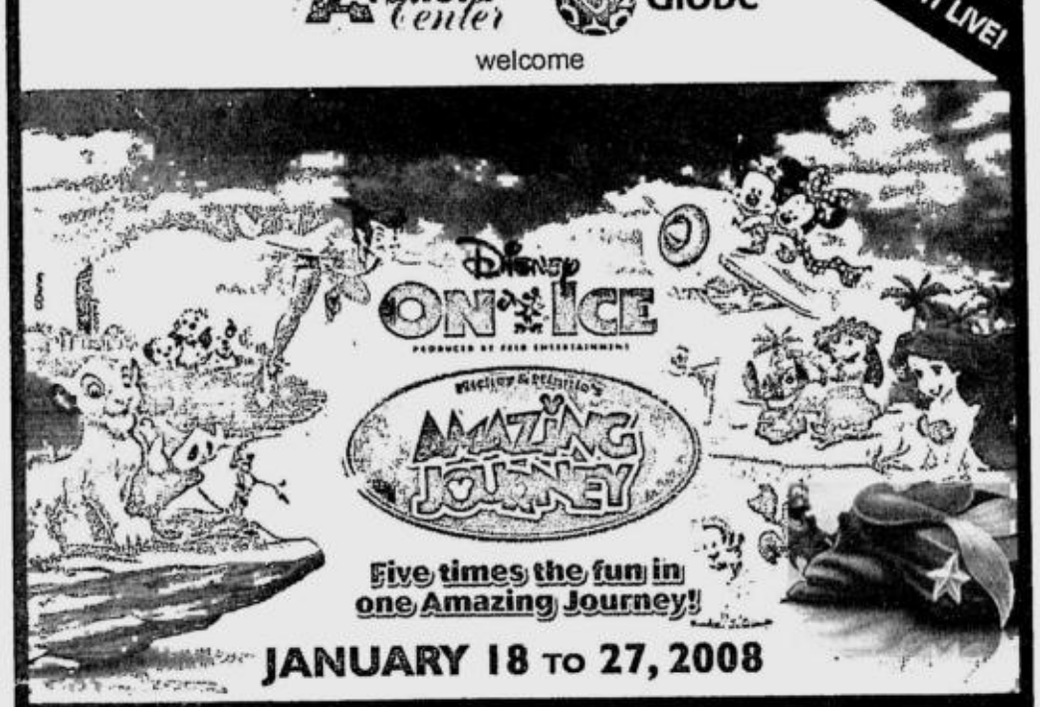
welcome



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HITMAN 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	ENCHANTED 12:20 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 5:00 6:10 / 8:30 / 9:40	BOOGEYMAN 2 12:20 / 5:00 / 9:40	PLATINUM CINEMA
ONE MORE CHANCE 12:40 / 1:15 / 3:25 / 4:00 6:10 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 9:30	BEOWULF 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20 PPV - WWE SURVIVOR 11:00 / 2:30 / 6:00	GREEN PARADISE 3:00 / 7:20 SUPERBAD 2:40 / 7:20	HITMAN 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

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PBA GAMES
Nov. 25, Sunday
4:30 pm STA LUCIA vs PUREFOODS 6:50 pm RED BULL vs TALK N TEXT

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

QUEEN MUSICAL
MEMBERS of the British rock band Queen, Brian May, right, and Roger Taylor address the media on Thursday in Vienna, where they are promoting the Austrian run of the musical "We Will Rock You." REUTERS

CHEER FACTOR

Citizen Seagal

MOSCOW—STEVEN Seagal sampled sheep soup and prayed at a Buddhist shrine during a visit to a poor region in southern Russia on Tuesday.

The action movie star was invited to Kalmykia by its quixotic president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

During the trip, Seagal was obliged to play some chess—Ilyumzhinov's favorite game.

The millionaire leader is famous for heading chess' world governing body, suppressing local political opposition and claiming he has communicated with aliens.

He made Seagal an honorary Kalmykian *AP*

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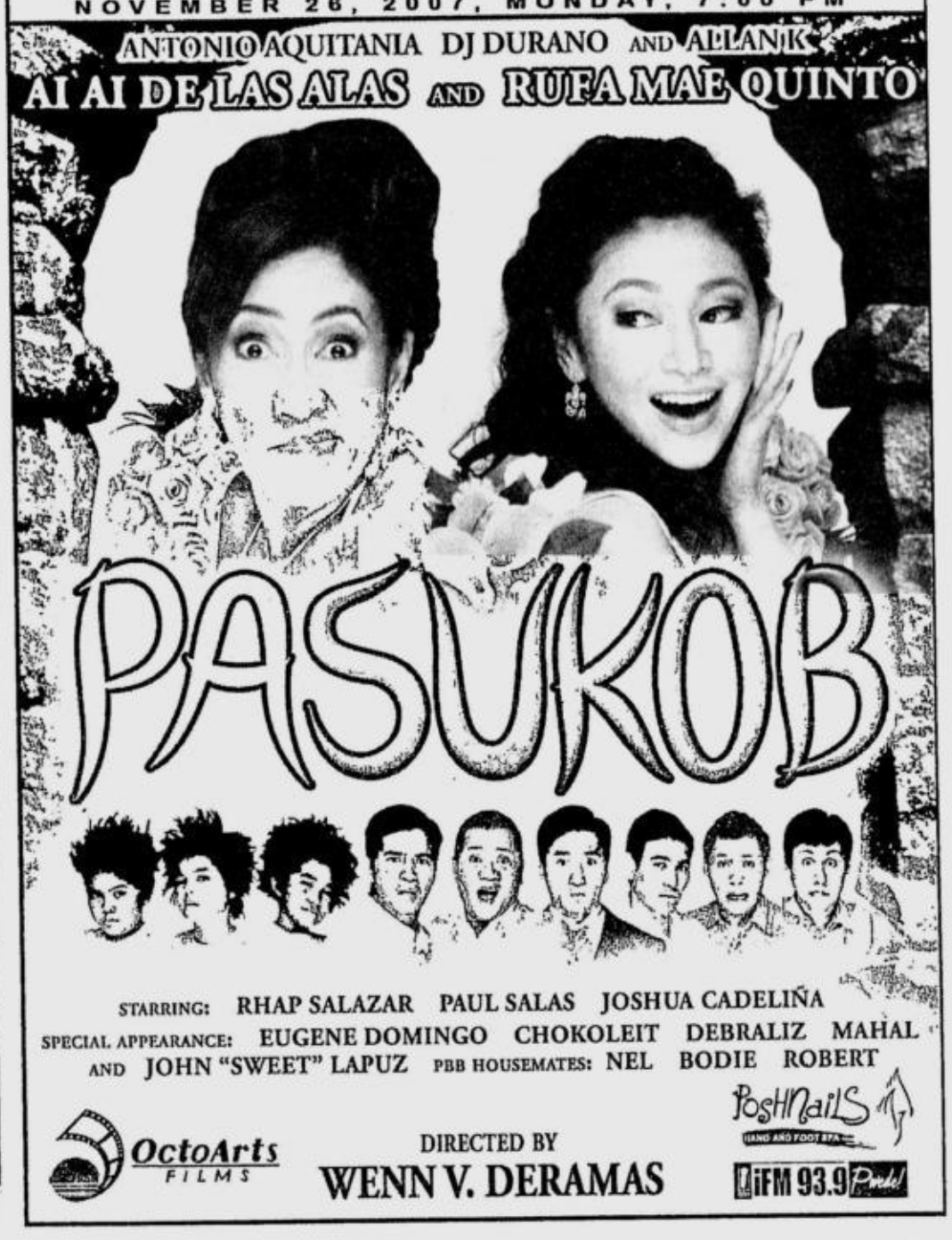
OPENS NOVEMBER 28
IN MORE THAN 100 THEATERS NATIONWIDE
BONGGANG-BONGGA! SOBRANG SAYA!
PREMIERE AT SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10
NOVEMBER 26, 2007, MONDAY, 7:00 PM
ANTONIO AQUITANIA DJ DURANO AND ALLANIK
AI AI DE LAS ALAS AND RUFA MAE QUINTO



PASUKOB

STARRING: RHAP SALAZAR PAUL SALAS JOSHUA CADELIÑA
SPECIAL APPEARANCE: EUGENE DOMINGO CHOKOLEIT DEBRALIZ MAHAL AND JOHN "SWEET" LAPUZ PBB HOUSEMATES: NEL BODIE ROBERT
OctoArts FILMS
DIRECTED BY WENN V. DERAMAS
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ACADEMY AWARD WINNER JAMIE FOXX
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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 BEOWULF	4 ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF	3 THX HITMAN (GUARANTEED SEATS)	
	4 THE NANNY DIARIES / ONE MORE CHANCE	5 ENCHANTED	6 ENCHANTED	7 THE GAMEPLAN
GREENBELT 1	1 HITMAN		2 ENCHANTED	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HITMAN (GUARANTEED SEATS)		2 THX ENCHANTED (GUARANTEED SEATS)	
	3 ENCHANTED (GUARANTEED SEATS)	4 SUPERBAD (GUARANTEED SEATS)	5 BEOWULF (GUARANTEED SEATS)	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ENCHANTED		2 HITMAN	
	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 ENCHANTED	5 BEOWULF	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BEOWULF
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE		2 BEOWULF	
	3 THE NANNY DIARIES	4 HITMAN	5 ENCHANTED	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE GAMEPLAN	3 HITMAN (GUARANTEED SEATS)	4 BEOWULF (GUARANTEED SEATS)
	5 THE NANNY DIARIES / ONE MORE CHANCE	6 ENCHANTED	7 THX ENCHANTED (GUARANTEED SEATS)	

AT THE MALLS

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Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala

glorietta
Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community
November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park

GREENBELT
Holiday Open Concert
November 24 & Dec 2; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Seussical The Musical
November 23 to 25; 11am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Metrobank Car Event
November 24 to 25; Activity Center, Paseos and Rotunda Area

MARKET! MARKET!
Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale
November 19 to 23; Activity Center

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
November 9 - December 16, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

Ayala MUSEUM
WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso
November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma
Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks
December 9; 6pm; Activity Center

Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim
December 16; 6pm; Activity Center

Glorietta 4
HOLIDAY CINEMA TREATS
Watch any movie at Glorietta 4 Cinemas and enjoy on exciting treats from participating Glorietta 4 food establishments!
PLUS!
Meet & greet your favorite characters at GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS'
MASCOT PARADE
November 24 (Sat.) & 25 (Sun.) - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
Promo Period: November 14 to December 31, 2007.
Ayala Malls Cinemas... Beyond Movies!
See poster for more details

The Cat in The Hat
Live only at Ayala Malls!
SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL
With Seussical™ The Musical, it's going to be a magical, whimsical and musical Christmas!
Nikki Gil, Roxanne Barcelo and Karylle as The Cat in The Hat.
Market! Market! November 16 to 18 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Alabang Town Center November 23 to 25 11:00 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
TriNoma December 1 and 2 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm
Ayala Center Cebu December 7 to 9 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6:30 pm
Glorietta December 12 to 14 11:30 am, 3 pm, 6 pm

THIS IS A NATION OF INQUIRERS. WE ARE THEIR NEWSPAPER.

Mega Manila
PDI – 48.73%
MB – 46.63%
PS – 42.97%

Balance Luzon
PDI – 63.89%
MB – 54.33%
PS – 41.96%

Visayas
PDI – 77.27%
PS – 53.64%
MB – 21.82%

Mindanao
PDI – 89.92%
PS – 56.72%
MB – 6.72%

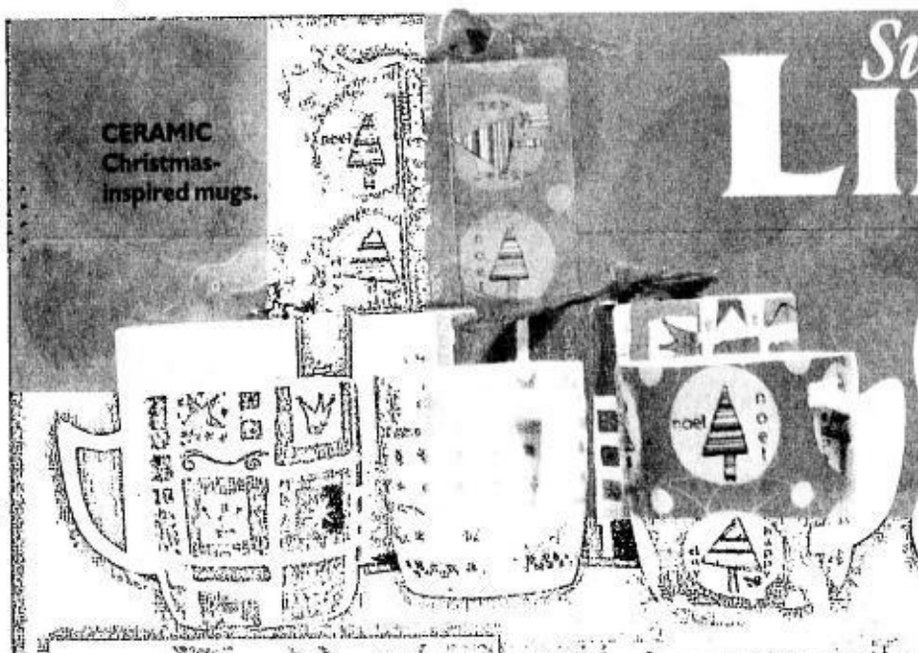
Total Urban Philippines/ Nationwide
PDI – 54.25%
MB – 46.85%
PS – 42.29%

Source: Nielsen Media Index Wave 1
2007 Figures: Among broadsheet readers yesterday.

For making us undisputedly No.1,
we thank our readers, advertisers and partners.

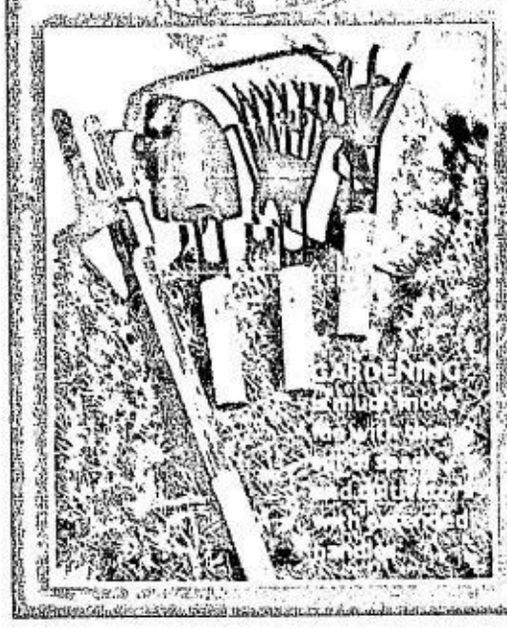
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

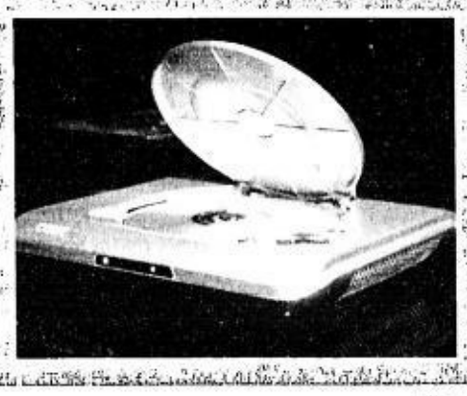
Christmas Countdown



SM helps you zero in on only the finest goods this merry season. Take your pick from whimsical finds from SM Homeworld, serenity stuff from Our Home, cool sights and sounds from SM Appliance Center, baskets full of cheers from SM Supermarket, and handy holiday tools from ACE Hardware.

MILD scented lavender and Eucalyptus scented beads.

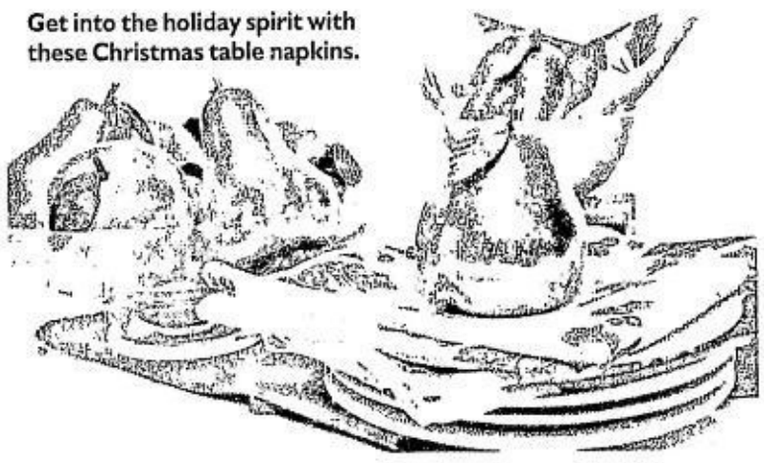
Coby DVD Player 209. This compact Super Slim DVD Player is compatible with DVD, CD, storage media, as well as NTSC/PAL System.



Tara's Everyday Tidings Basket. P500.00. Doña Elena Red Wine 750ml, Falcon's Valley Corn kernel 425g, Libby's Vienna Sausage 5oz, Spigadora Penne 500gm, Hunt's Tomato Sauce 115gm, Lotte Chocopie 168gm, Arocr Butter Toffees 49gm

ENTERTAIN your family and friends during Noche Buena with this Christmas inspired dinnerware set.

Get into the holiday spirit with these Christmas table napkins.



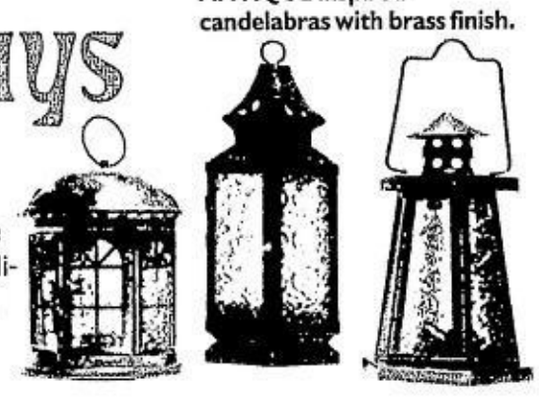
Home for the Holidays

DECORATE your most precious space with all the right trimmings from SM Homeworld.

The holidays bring about a great number of gatherings and family reunions, and if you love entertaining at home, you'll delight guests with touches of whimsy from SM Homeworld.

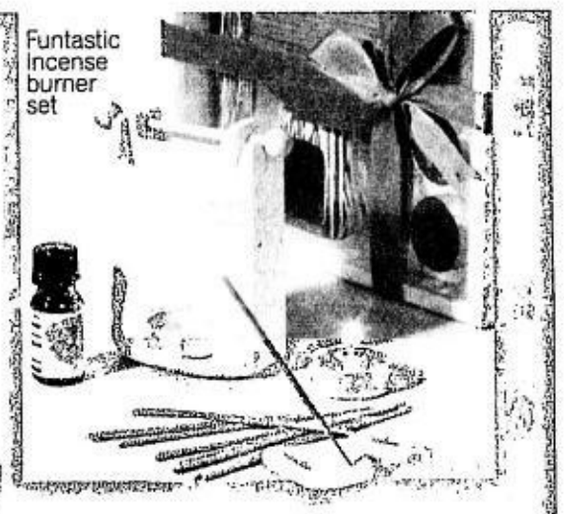
Add a festive touch to your table with Christmas inspired linen. Serve your favorite family baked goodies in plates with fancy holiday designs, and sip hot coffee and cocoa in mugs with holiday motifs in cool December evenings.

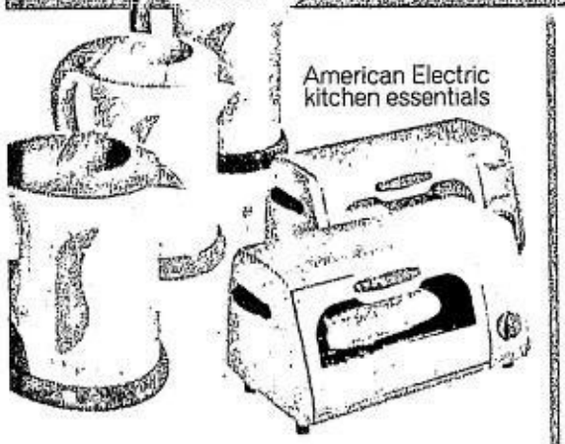
ANTIQUE inspired candelabras with brass finish.

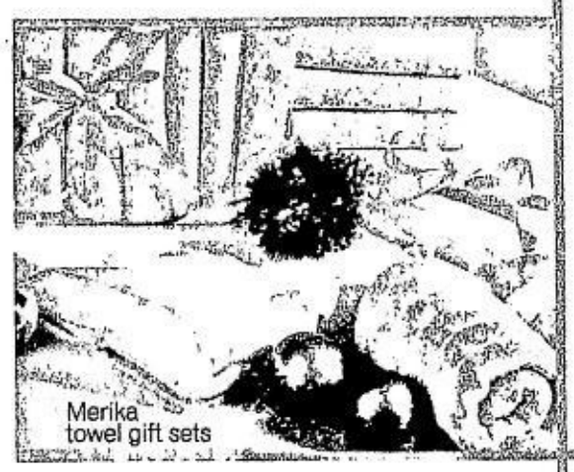


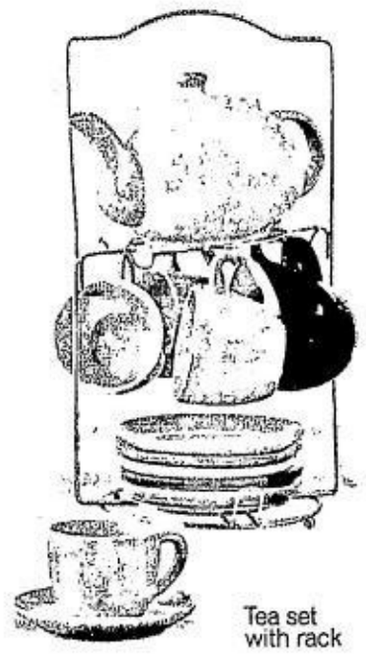
HOME WORLD
Your one-stop home shop

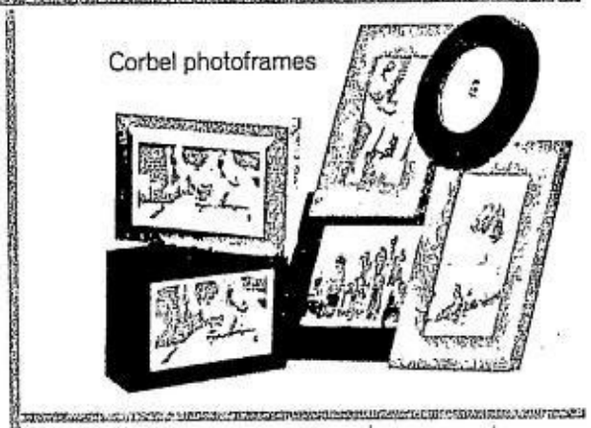
Gifts for the holiday home

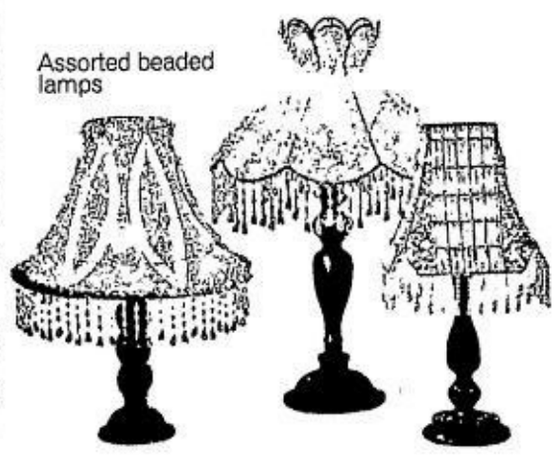












SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA • BACOLOD • TAYTAY

Sunday LIFESTYLE

CERAMIC Christmas-inspired mugs.

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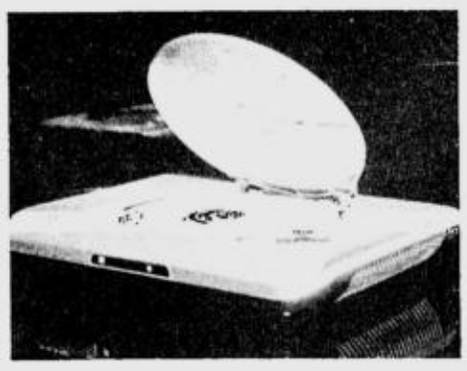

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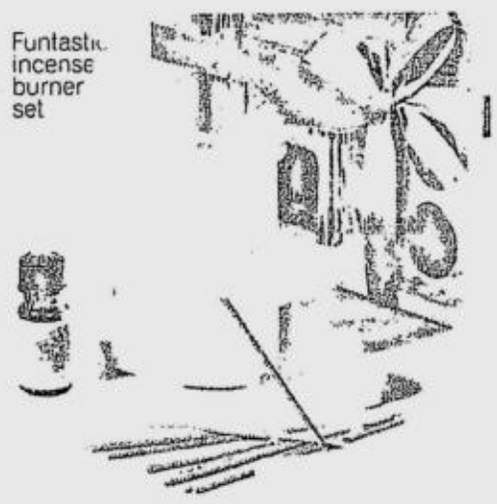
HOME WORLD

Funtastic incense burner set



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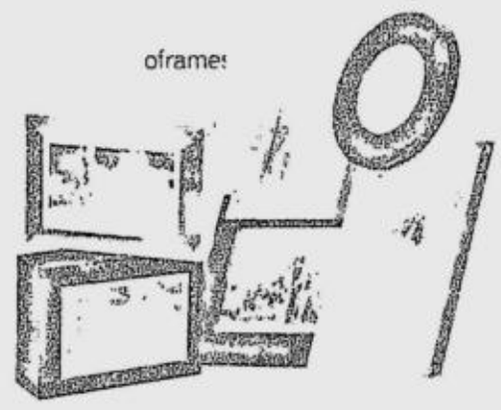

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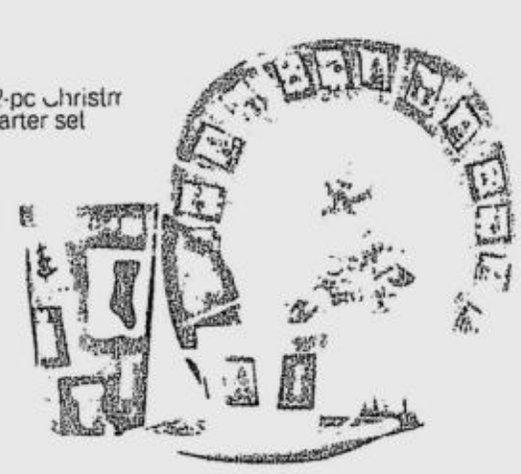
Get ...e the holiday spirit with se Christmas table napkins.

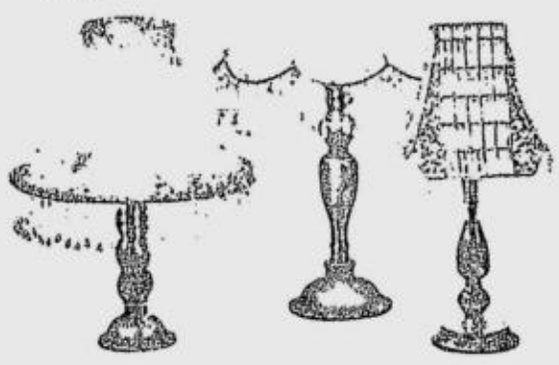
12-pc Christm starter set



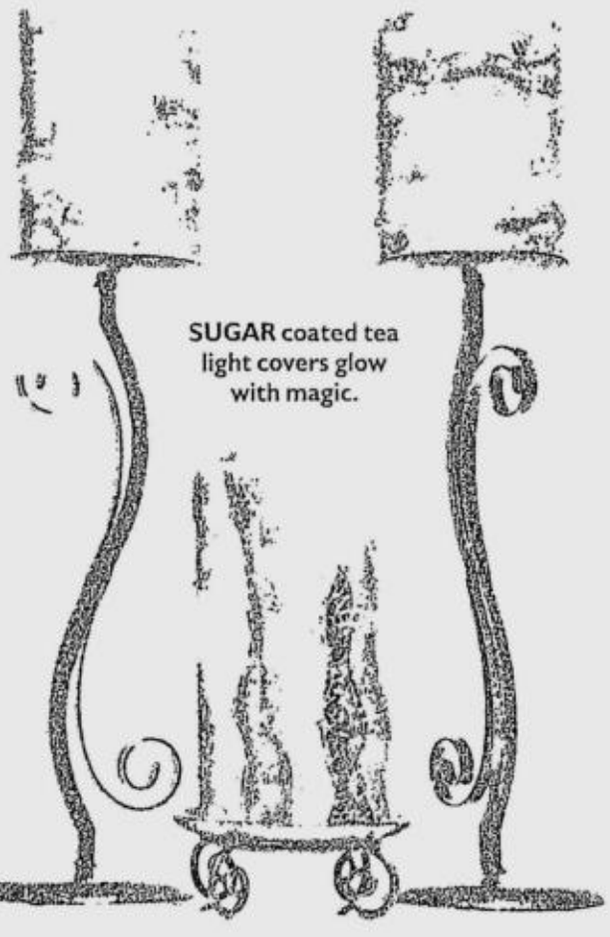
Merika towel gift sets

Tea set with rack

Assorted beaded lamps



SUGAR coated tea light covers glow with magic.



6-pc Coffee service gift set

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

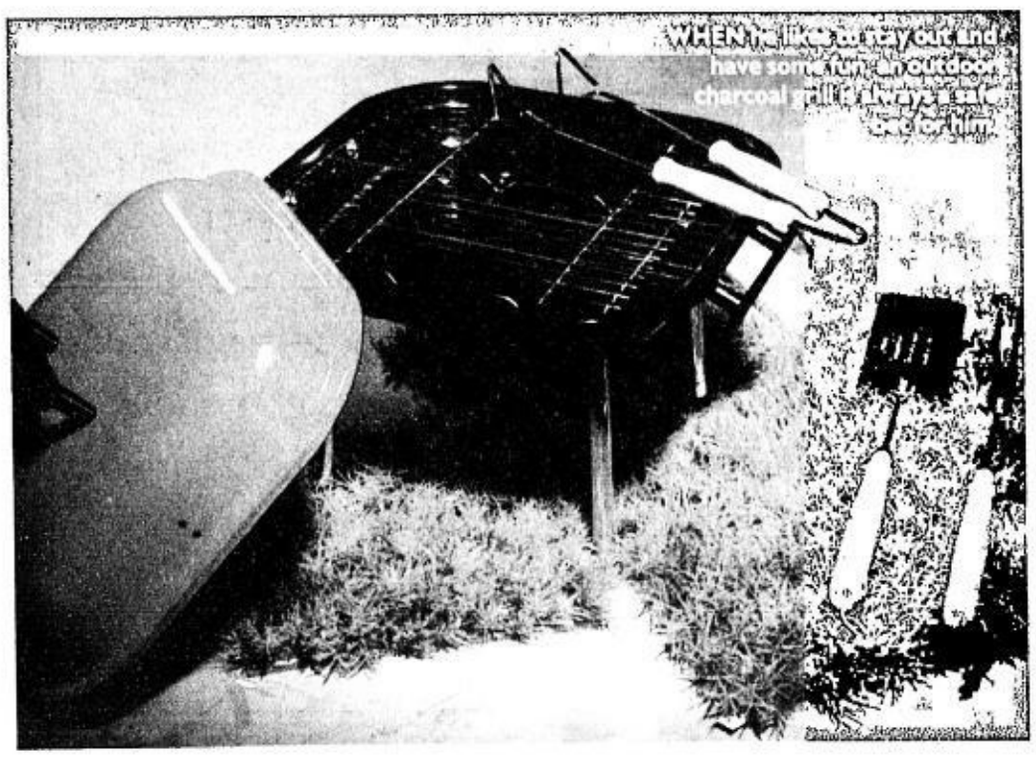
Get professional-looking results with these easy-to-use painting tools
An auto mechanic tool set perfect for someone who takes pride in his
Combine protection and style with these

Hands-On

If you've got a DIY enthusiast in your life, give him more tools to build, repair, and remodel from ACE Hardware, the Friendly Place.

Give him a new tool to take on new tasks like the Bosch GSB Professional and Black and Decker Corded Drills. Help him turn plain walls into dramatic backdrops or enhance the visual effects of furniture and fixtures through painting stuff - brushes, scrappers, sand papers, and paint trays. If he takes pride in keeping his car in tip top condition - as all men do - an auto mechanic Tool Set will do the trick.

If he likes the great outdoors, and it's a passion you share with him, enjoy cookouts with compact and collapsible outdoor grills. A nice alternative is a portable gas stove that can be used for tailgate parties, camping, and picnics.



Ace Hardware will equip you with everything you need to get through this yuletide season with ease.

This **PORTABLE** gas stove can be used for tailgate parties, camping and picnicking.

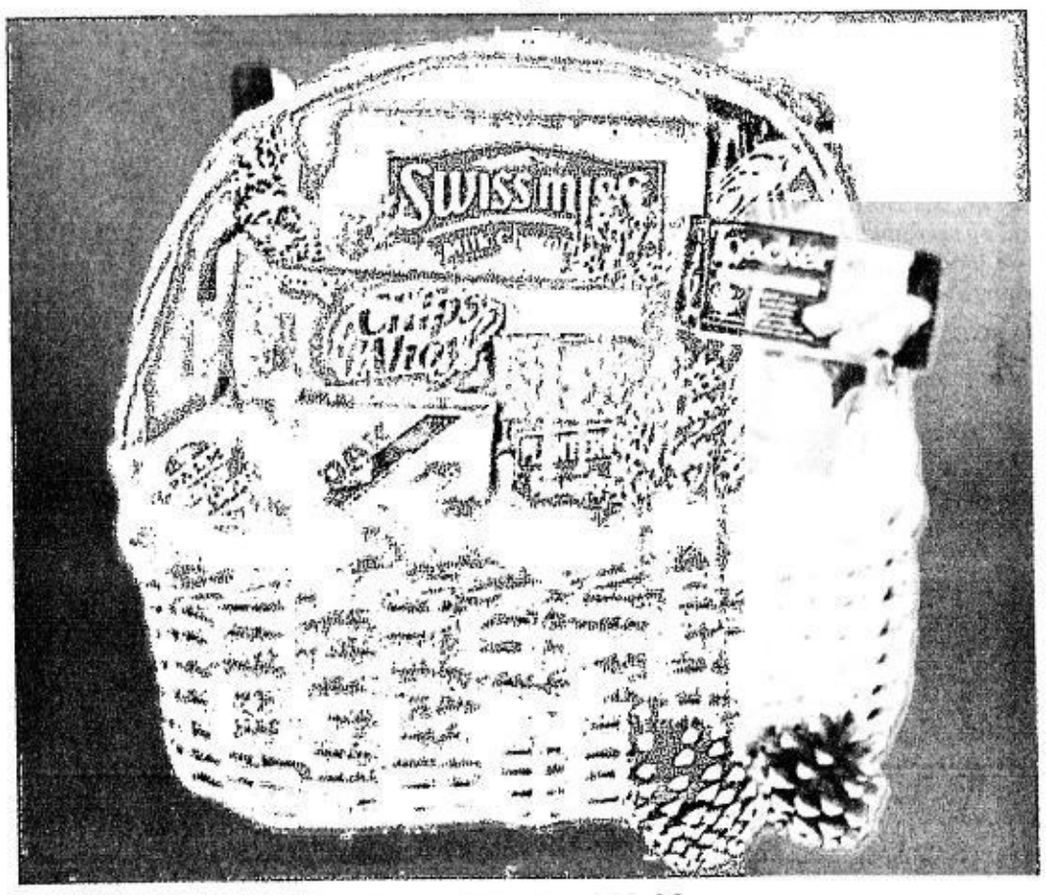
An Emergency Road Side Tool Kit like this will always come in handy.

If he's a garden enthusiast, make your lawn and garden the envy of the block with a complete garden tool set. Spades, garden trowels, and pocket size multi gardener tools with belt pouches, and gloves are other options.

Make it a handy holiday with gifts from ACE Hardware stores. In Metro Manila, these are located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Manila, SM City Bicutan, SM City Sucat, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Taytay, and the Mall of Asia. These are also located at the SM Supercenters in Pasig, Valenzuela, and Muntinlupa, In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Dasmarinas, Molino, Batangas, Lucena, Clark, Marilao, Baguio, and Sta. Rosa. Also check these out at the ACE Builders Centers at SM North EDSA, SM City Fairview, and SM City Pampanga.

ACE®
The helpful place.
now open
at SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA
Ground Floor
Get a chance to WIN
one of 2 sinski Vivamask
Every P500 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to a raffle coupon.
PHOTO MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRIZE.
Double your chances with your
NOW THRU DEC 16, 2007
See Poster Mechanics For Details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A2-400, Series of 2007
Black and Decker's Corded Drill offers a complete range for drilling and screw driving and masonry
Tool Headquarters complete set of basic tools for DIYers.

OVERFLOWING GOODNESS CHRISTMAS BASKET.P650.00.
DM P/A Tidbits 439gm, DM Fiesta Fruit Cocktail 439gm, DM P/A Chunks 439gm, DM Four Seasons Juice Drink 46oz, DM Menudo Recipe Mix, DM Caldereta Recipe Mix, DM Tomato Paste 150gm, DM Instant Marinade 200ml, DM Original Blend Ketsup 12oz, DM Spaghetti 1kg, DM Spag. Sauce Sweet Style 250gm, DM Restaurant Style Fried Chicken Mixes, DM Spag. Sauce Italian Style 750gm, DM Tomato Sauce 200gm, DM 100% Unsweetened P/A Juice 46oz



TARA'S HEAVENLY RICHES BASKET. P1,000.00.
Doña Elena Red Wine 750ml, Del Monte Imported Fruit Cocktail 830gm, Planter's Roasted Peanut 8oz, Swiss Miss Choco Drink 10oz, Chips Ahoy Choco Chips 95gm, Dak Luncheon Meat 200gm, Spigadoro Spaghetti 500gm, Loacker Cacao 45gm, Palm Vienna Sausage 5oz

TARA'S SKY'S THE LIMIT BASKET. P2,500.00.
Cadbury Cashew Nuts 180g, UCC Class One Coffee 200g, Franzia Red Wine 750ml, Treetop Apple Juice 2L, Doña Elena Pure Olive Oil 250ml, Del Monte Imported Fruit Cocktail 830gm, Libby's Corned Beef Black 198g, Amott's Venezia Assorted Biscuits 445g, San Remo Penne 500g, Hunt's Tomato Sauce in can 15oz, Falcon's Valley Corn Kernel 425g, Oregon Chips Potato Chips 150g, Dak Pate de Fole 90g

CHRISTMAS SURPRISE. P500.00.
Cheetos Twisted 9oz, Mentos Grape 50's, M&M Peanut Single 40g, Tropicana Gold 100% Apple Juice 1L, Loacker Wafer, Quad Nap 125gms, Doritos N. Cheesler,65gm

Fully Loaded

Spread holiday tidings with baskets full of Noche Buena treats and holiday goodies from SM Supermarket

Today's gift baskets at SM Supermarket are packed with more holiday treats than ever with great prices ranging from P350 to P2,500. Loaded with Christmas delicacies like ham, chocolates, cookies, and even wine - there are gift baskets for everyone. There are those perfect for Noche Buena or Christmas Dinner celebrations, baskets with a gourmet flair, baskets great for snacking. All these holiday goodies are deliciously arranged in buckets, and baskets, and carts and decorated with ribbons, poinsettias, and other holiday ornaments.

Holiday Gift Baskets are available at all SM Supermarket branches. For inquiries, visit any SM Supermarket Customer Service Counter or log on to www.smsupermarket.com.

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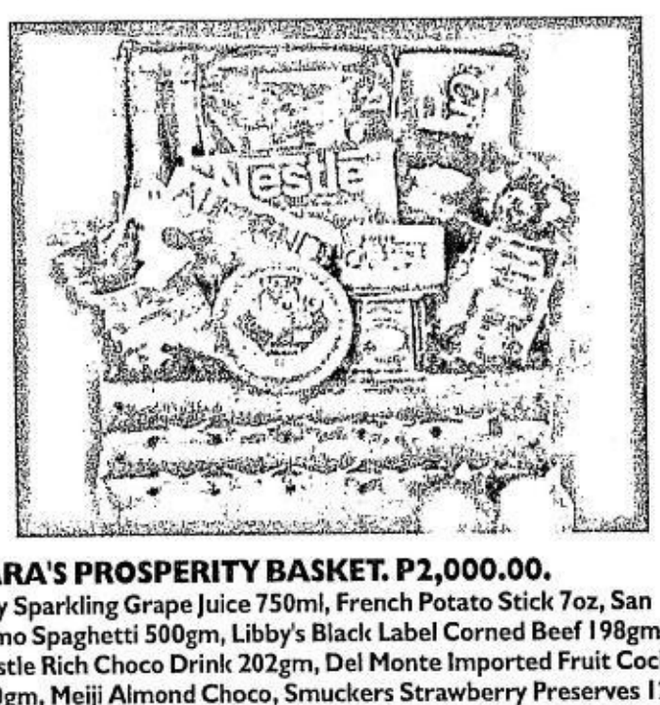

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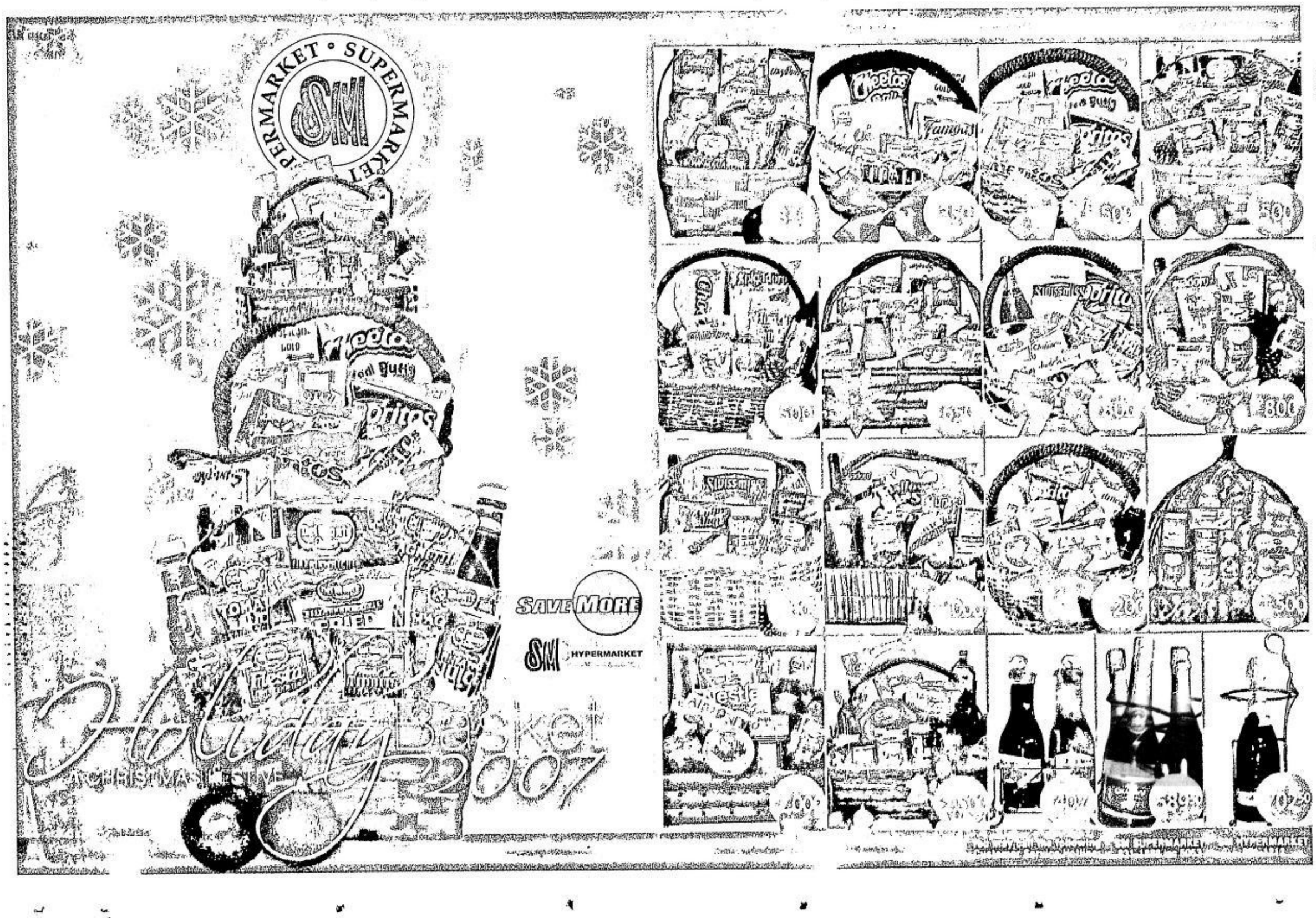

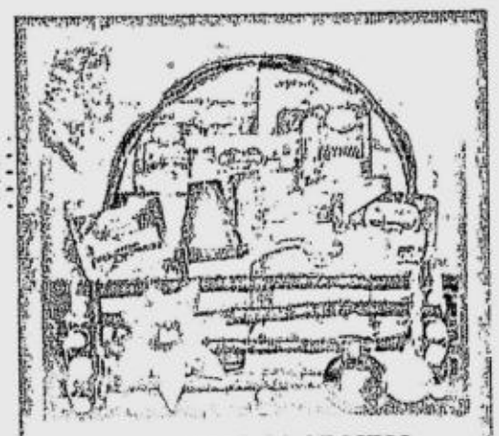

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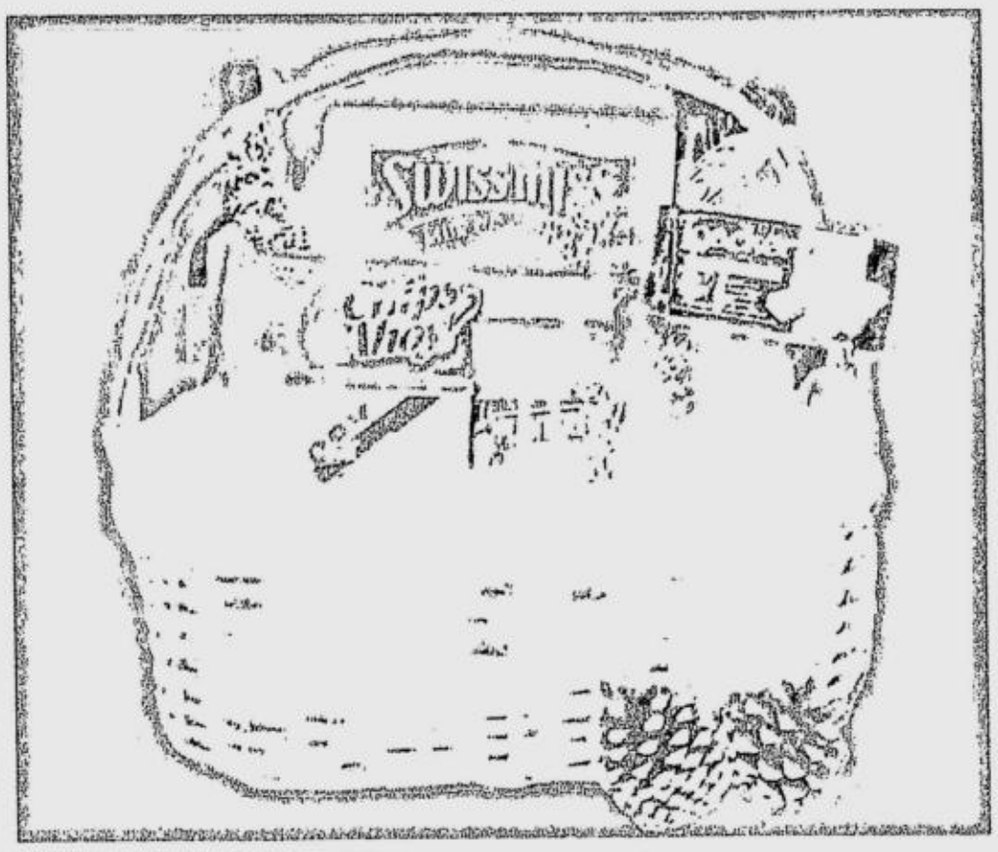

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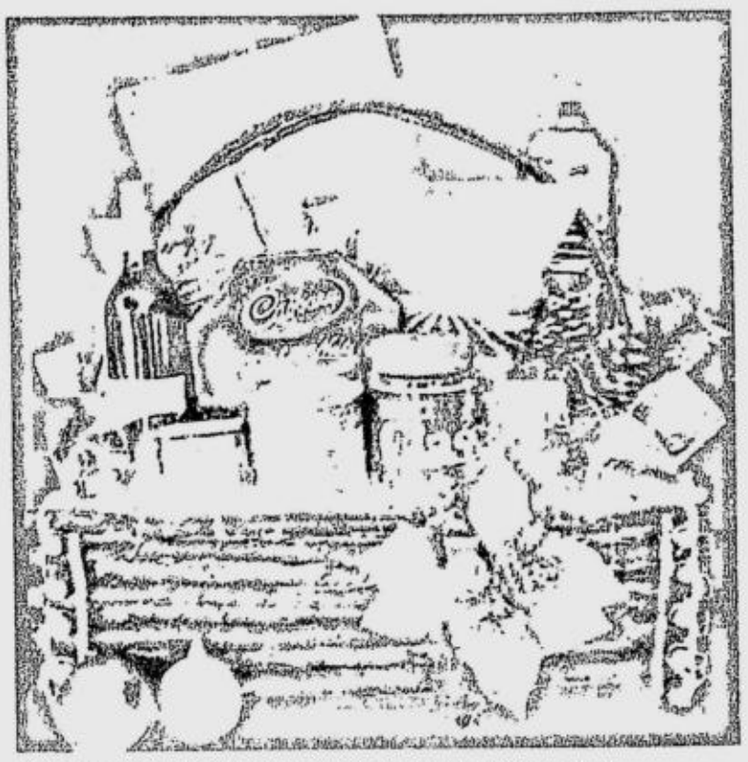

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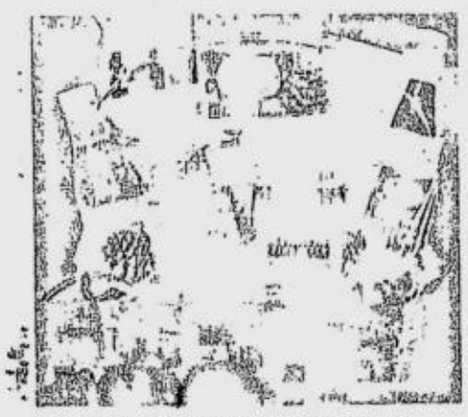

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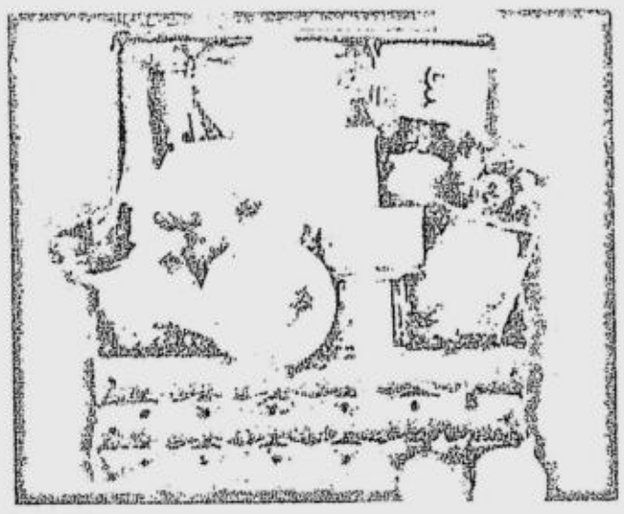

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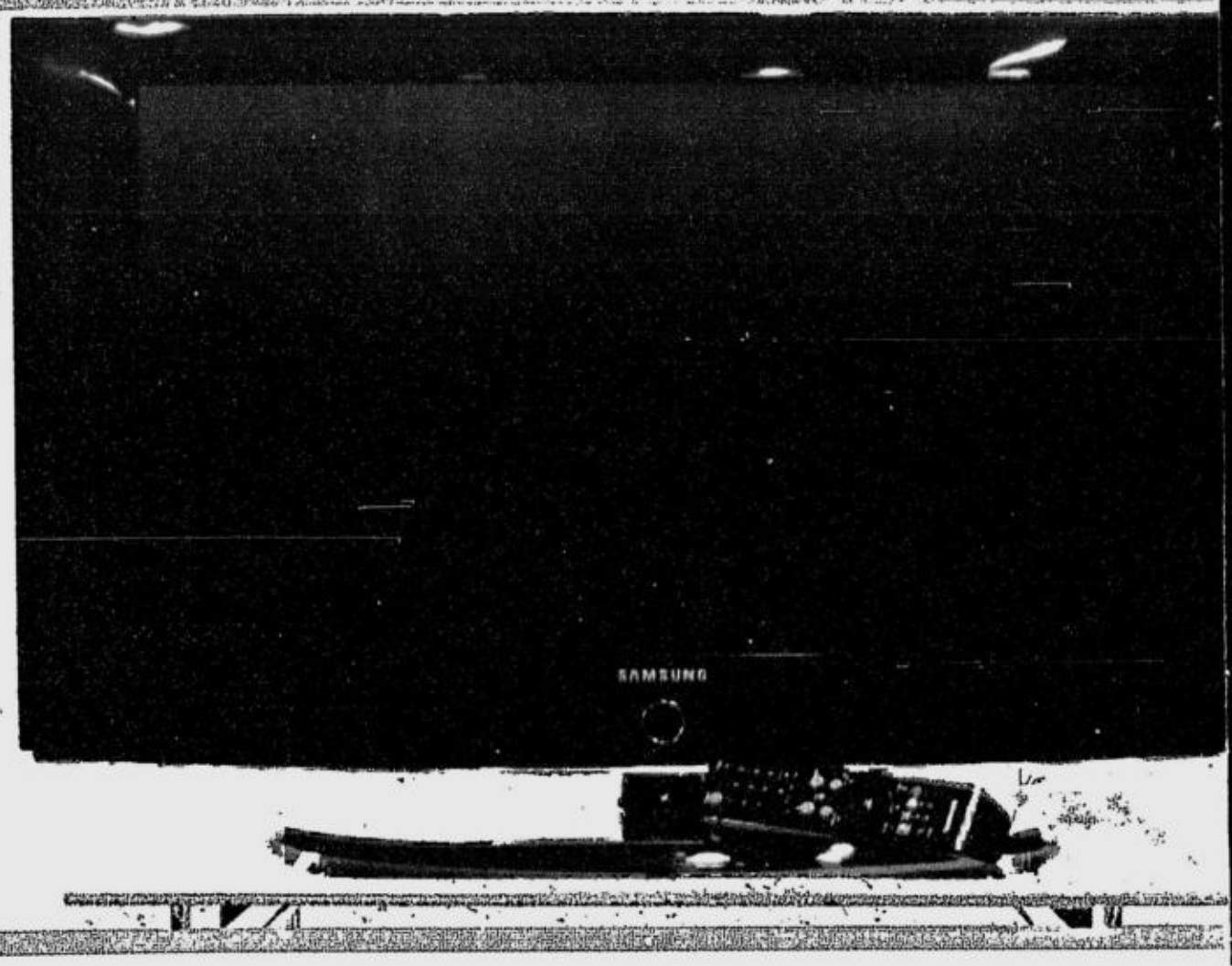
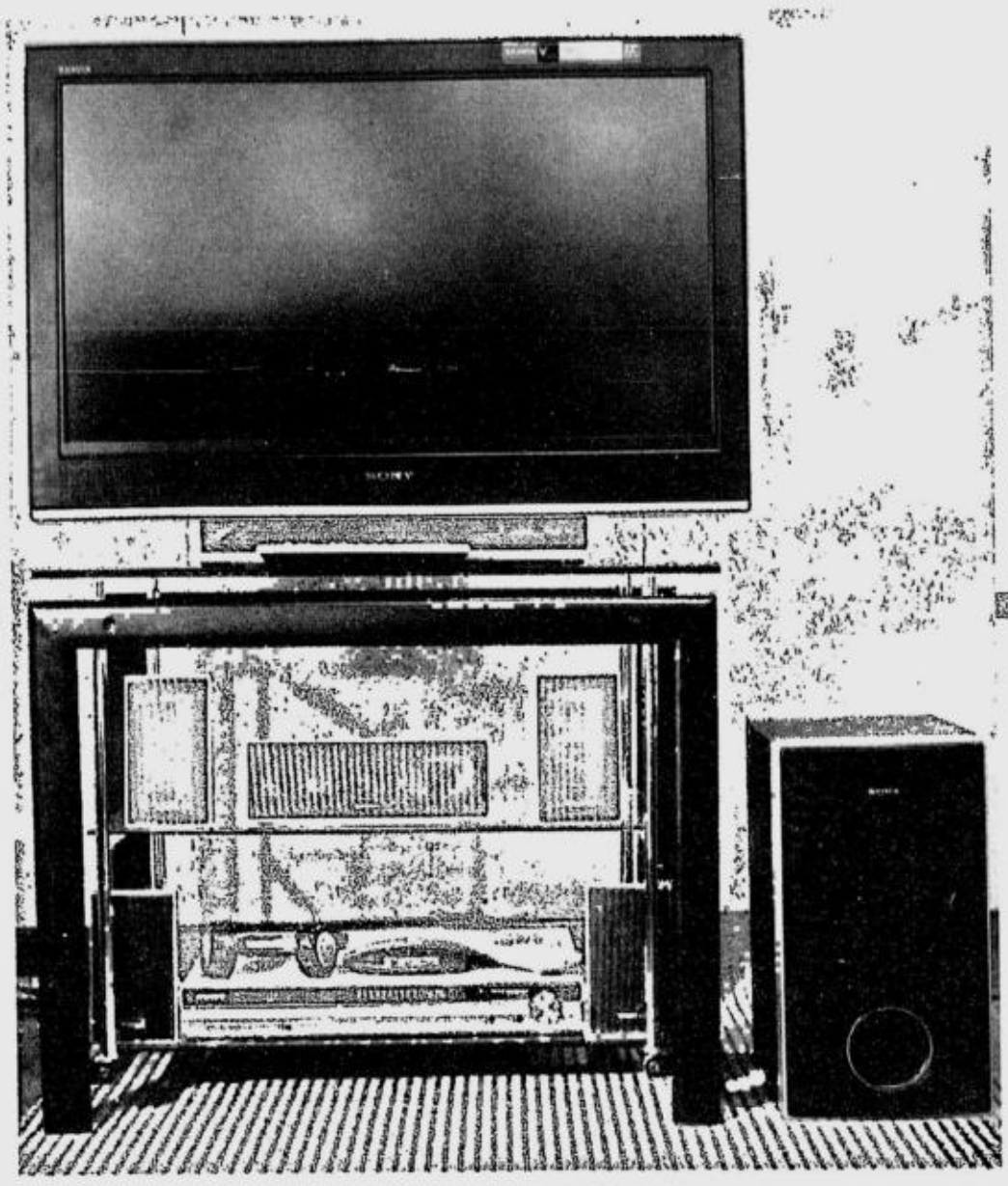
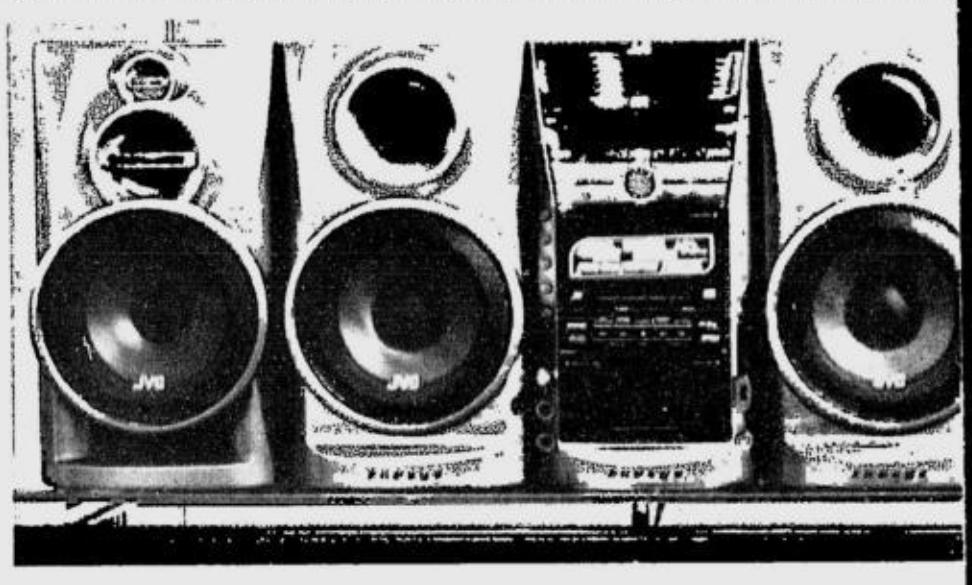
TARA'S LIMITED EDITION BASKET. P1,000.00.
Doña Elena Red Wine 750ml, Del Monte Imported Fruit Cocktail 830gm, Rauch Bravo Orange Juice1L, Hershey's Mallow Blast 6.5g x 18, Hunt's Tomato Sauce 115gm, Dak Pear-shaped Chopped Ham 454gm, Spigadoro Spaghetti 500gm, Libby's Corned Beef Black Small 198gm, Chocopie 28gm x 2 packs

Samsung's Wide LCD TV (LA32S81B) with a glossy black finish is armed with a high definition Resolution Panel so that you get brilliant color and rich imagery. Enhanced by a high performance, 1-chip video processor and 3D comb filter with a motion adaptive IP converter, the LA32S81B improves picture contrast and detail while reducing video noise and image blur to provide you with a rich, colorful image. Its audio system also provides an outstanding surround sound experience for your audio pleasure. With its sleek, innovative design, the LA32S81B will look terrific just about anywhere you put it.



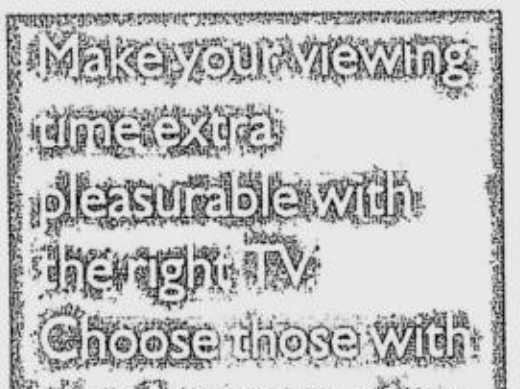


SUPER Slim Flat-Screen TV JVC (AC-29SS26). This innovatively-designed super slim flat screen by JVC is the ultimate winner as it beats all other conventional 29 inch models with its MaxxBass feature. MaxxBass creates balance and sensation so that harmonious sounds with soothing decibels triumph over low frequencies that are uncomfortable to the ear. It also comes with an Ecosensor feature which adjusts accordingly to the ambient light in any room so that you never have to worry about glare.



SONY Bravia TV has unique digital picture enhancement engine that leverages on Sony's advanced algorithms to portray sharp and crystal clear pictures. Match it with Sony's Home Theater System, and you'll get the ultimate audio experience.

Make your viewing time extra pleasurable with the right TV. Choose those with slim features - they look stylish and fit into any nook!



JVC Compact Component System. If you live and breathe music, you can do no wrong with JVC's Compact Component Systems. Its CD players are equipped with Progressive Scan which ensure smooth quality from your favorite CDs. The powerful speakers, partnered with equally powerful subwoofers, make sure you get quality bass. Its 5-CD tray uses a unique CD exchange system that allows you to eject and insert CDs while one is playing. Aside from your usual commercial CDs, this system will also play burned CD-R and CD-RW as well as MP3s.

PHILIPS' LCD HD Ready Flat TV-26 allows you to watch vivid cinema-like images, and with its slim design and compact look, this TV will fit almost anywhere.

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sights & sounds

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- Video output: component (YUV) / s-video / composite / monitor (VGA)
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MPEG DVD Player
AN-2541
- Formats supported: DVD / SVCD / VCD2.0 / VCD3.0
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48cm 19"LCD TV
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- Analogue tuner
- 1440x900 resolution
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home essentials

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- With Hose and Clamp
- Stainless Top
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- Thermostat for precision control
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- Cooks 4 to 10 cups of rice
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Nikon
Double Burner Gas Stove
NGS-S3S
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- Automatic Ignition

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Hyundai
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HGA201-s
- LPG Gas Type
- G W 9.5 Kg N.W. 8.3Kg
- Piezoelectric ignition
- Unit Size 76x46x19cm

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- 12" Heavy Duty Industrial Fan
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- Painted Steel Cavity
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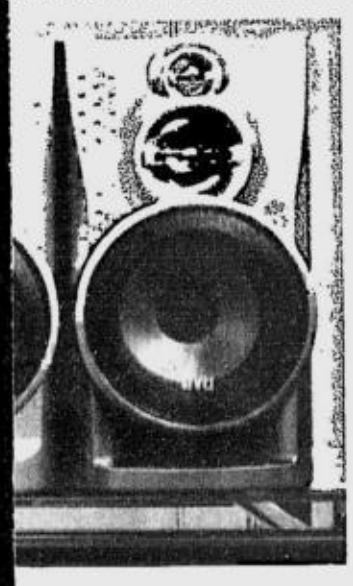
Give yourself and your family a gift of sights, sound, and memories from SM Appliance Center.

PIONEER Home Theater System. Putting a range of quality components into one system, Pioneers DVD Home Theatre Systems offers great convenience. It delivers a quality performance, such as upscaling DVD players that produce stunning visuals in High Definition, and comes with powerful speakers that give out surround sound. The systems are also versatile, with a digital tuner and AM/FM channels, and is compatible with many different formats.



Showtime

Christmas time is also bonus time, and it's a good time for us to look into big ticket items for ourselves and our families.ring home entertainment like never before to your own home with high definition flat panel display LCD screens, as well as state of the art audio and Home Theater Systems. Or give your family a gift of memories, with Canon's IXUS 70, a perfect companion to holiday gatherings.

Check these out at all SM Appliance Center stores at the SM Supermalls, and at SM Makati, V-Mall, and The Podium.

SANYO CLT2054 Television. Enjoy the extra-sharp resolution of Enhanced Definition (ED) TV with this LCD model that fits almost anywhere. Its slim, space-saving flat panel design renders it perfect for a wall-mounted contemporary look. This unique TV also comes with a monitor with a detachable tilt stand and built-in 181 automatic channel tuner that makes viewing all your favorite channels possible.

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gizmos galore

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• 3 Speed
• With Oscillation
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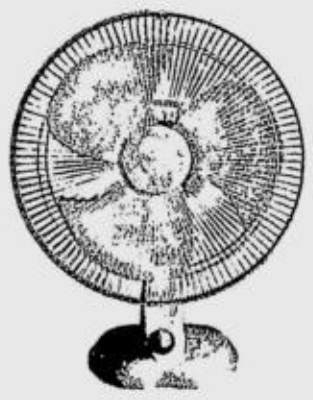
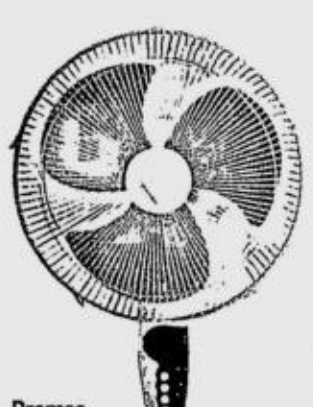


Promac
Air-Mac Desk Fan
• 16" Blade
• 3 Speed
619.75



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Kool Stand Fan
• 16" Blade
• 3 Speed
• With Oscillation
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6" Desk Fan
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Coby
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• Sensitive AM/FM tuner
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Coby
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• Screen Size: 3.5" x 6"
• Memory card type: SD,MMC
• Picture Pause/Play Function
• Next/Prev selection
• Picture rotation function
• Slideshow interval adjustable
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3,994.75

Phillips
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MP3 Player
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• Enjoy MP3 & WMA music
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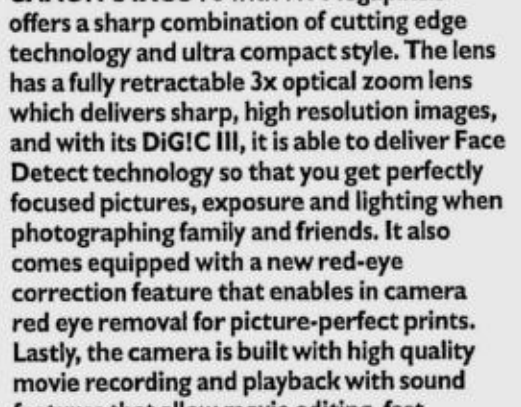
The best digital cameras are those that are small in size but big on features

CANON'S IXUS 70 with 7.1 Megapixels offers a sharp combination of cutting edge technology and ultra compact style. The lens has a fully retractable 3x optical zoom lens which delivers sharp, high resolution images, and with its DiG!C III, it is able to deliver Face Detect technology so that you get perfectly focused pictures, exposure and lighting when photographing family and friends. It also comes equipped with a new red-eye correction feature that enables in camera red eye removal for picture-perfect prints. Lastly, the camera is built with high quality movie recording and playback with sound features that allow movie editing, fast forward, reverse and frame by frame replay from the camera's high resolution PureColour LCD screen.



COBY Digital Photo Frame. Here's a great way to display all those digital photos you've accumulated over the years. Display one or all (in slide show mode) directly from Compact Flash memory card, and view your favorite pictures on a table or on a wall - just like you would with a regular picture frame .

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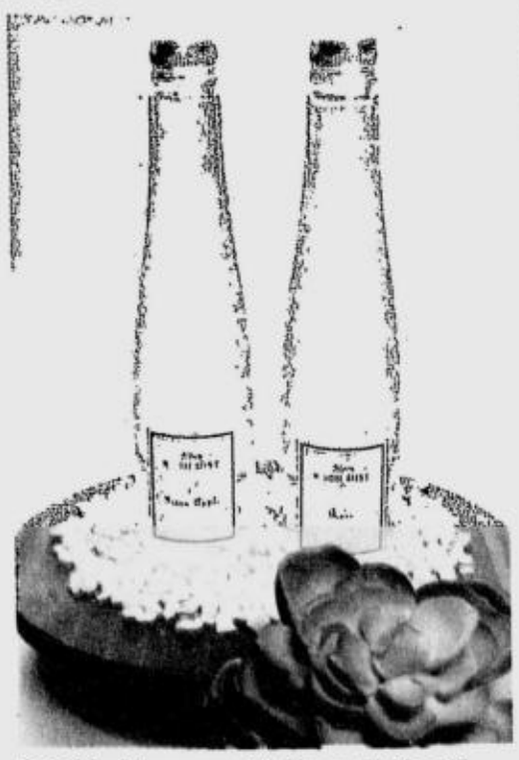
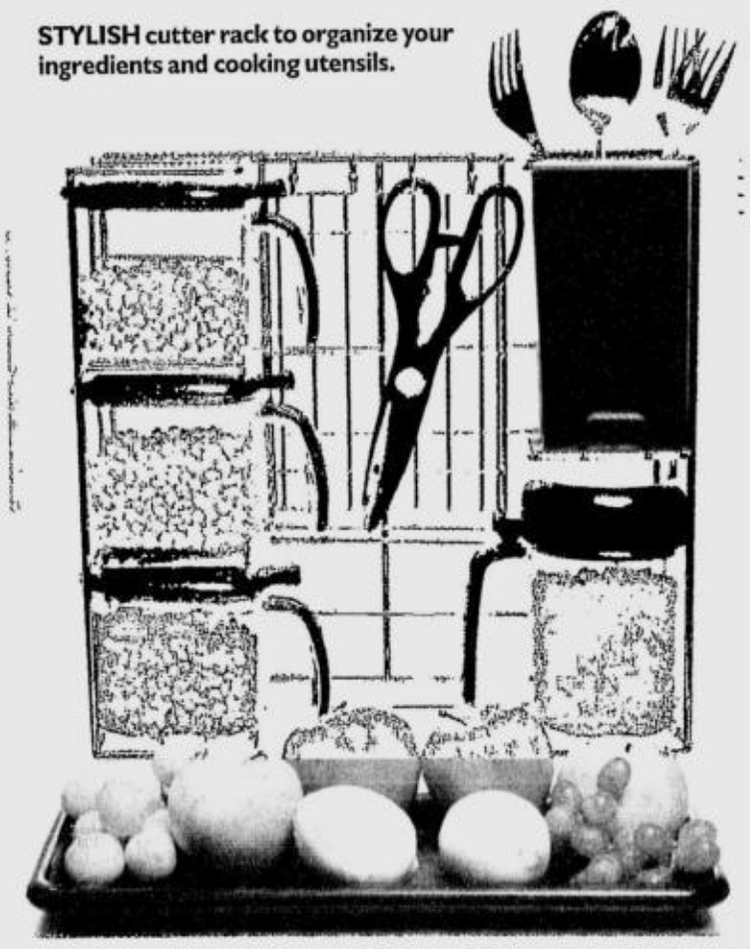


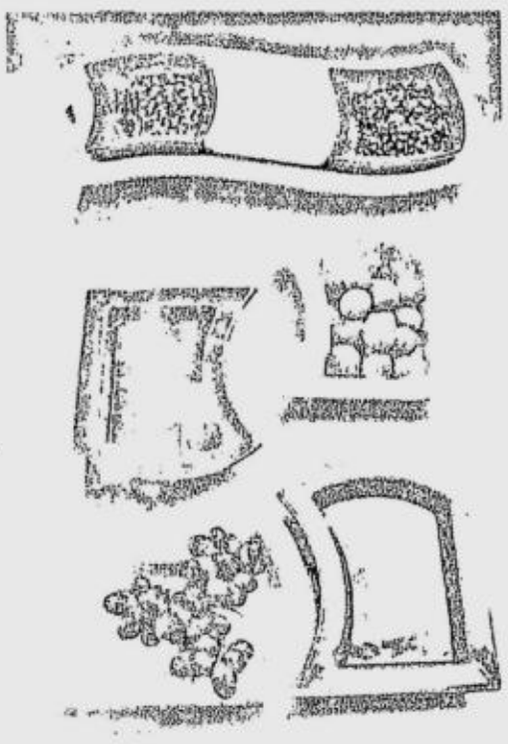
ROOM mist sprays with Green Apple and Rose scents set the moods and blend with the aromas of your food in any kitchen.

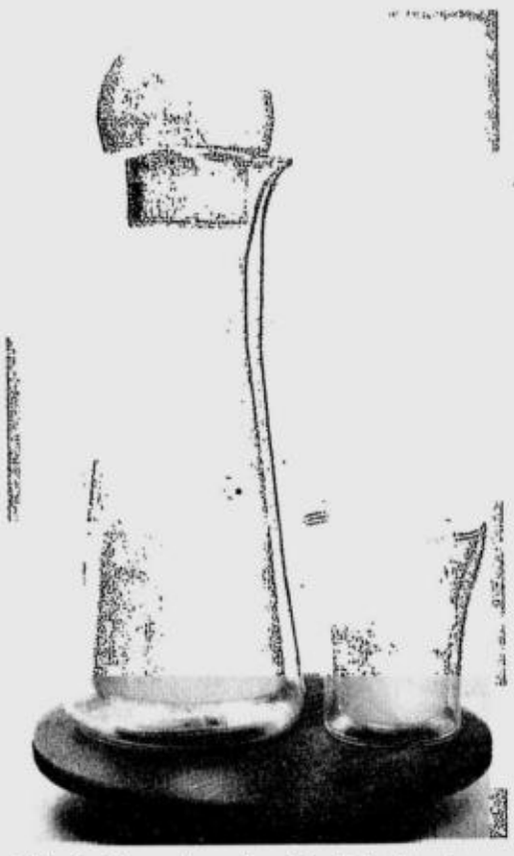
FAMILY and friends will enjoy dipping delicious fruits and dessert into a cascading curtain of melted chocolate.

STYLISH cutter rack to organize your ingredients and cooking utensils.



Metal key chain with brushed nickel finish to hold your fave photo.



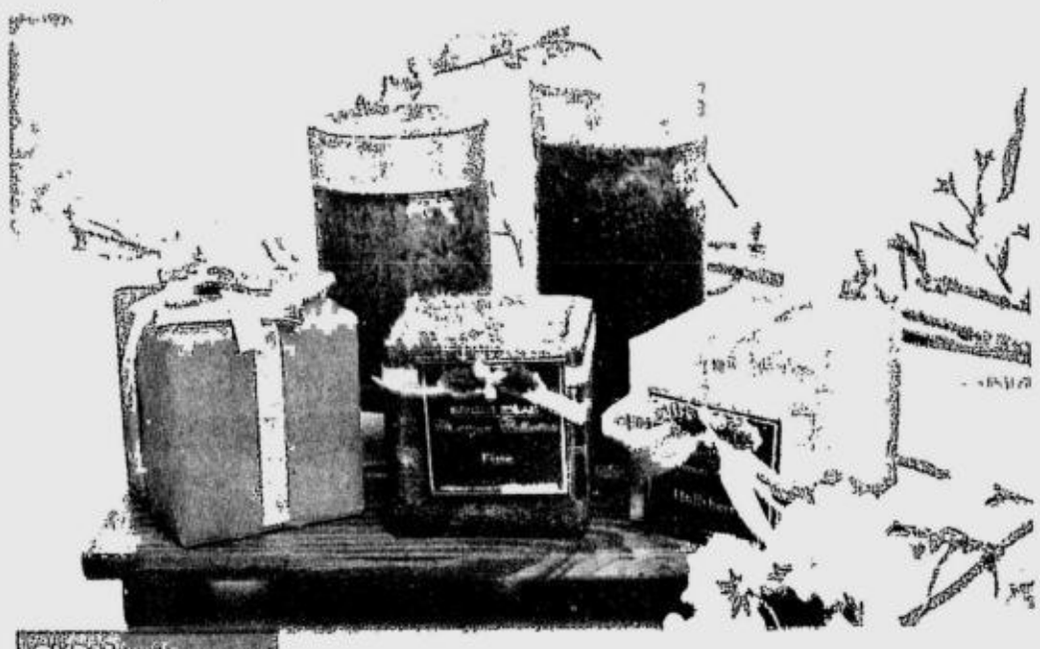


This double wall carafe with a lid will make a great addition to any kitchen.

HOLIDAY entertaining requires bright and beautiful serving pieces that can be used separately or nested together.

Calm Surrender

Our Home is the one stop shop loaded with gifts of comfort and serenity



WITH all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season- not to mention the all year round stressful schedules we are all so familiar with, treat yourself and your family and friends to wonderful and useful gifts from Our Home, the lifestyle store with great designs at great prices.

Get serene and scent-sational with room sprays in the most delightful of scents, aromatic beads in bottles, and fragrant wax that is a great alternative for burning oil. Light up your home with candles with the scents of Christmas- snowflakes, holly berry, crystal pine, and apple cinnamon. Or with mini candles with the most delicious of aromas- lemon grass, green tea, café mocha, and crème vanilla to the delightful garden scents- wild rose, lavender, and fresh bamboo.

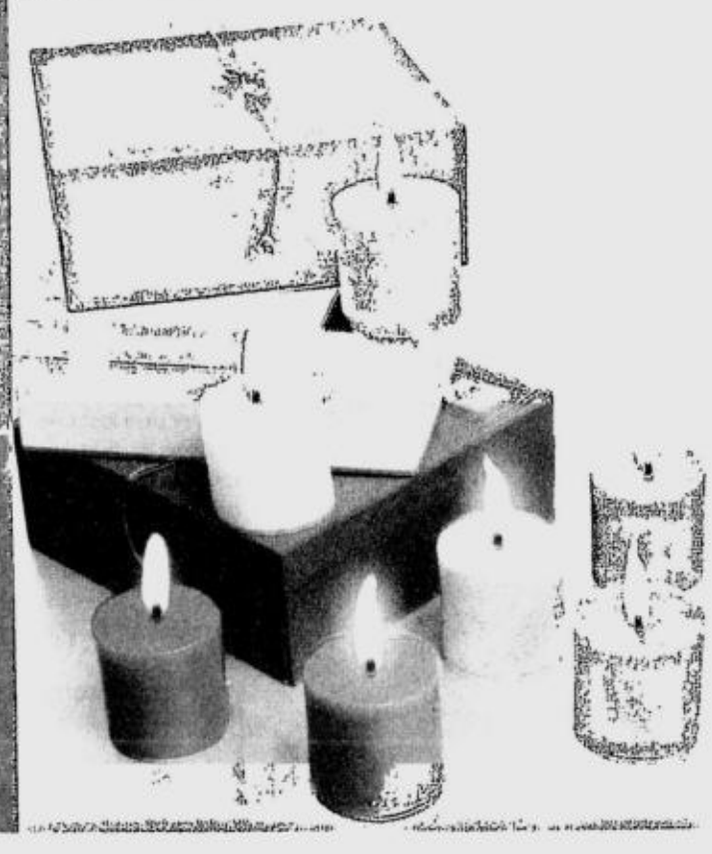
Take a coffee or tea break with this chrome teapot for afternoon tea or a double wall carafe with a cork lid. Back at home, whimsical soap dishes will also add a smile to your face as you unwind in the tub or shower after a hard day at work.

Be a child this Christmas- and always- with a Chocolate Fondue Fountain to sweeten up reunions. Family and friends will be amazed and entertained as they dip delicious fruits and desserts into cascading curtain of warm melted fondue chocolate.

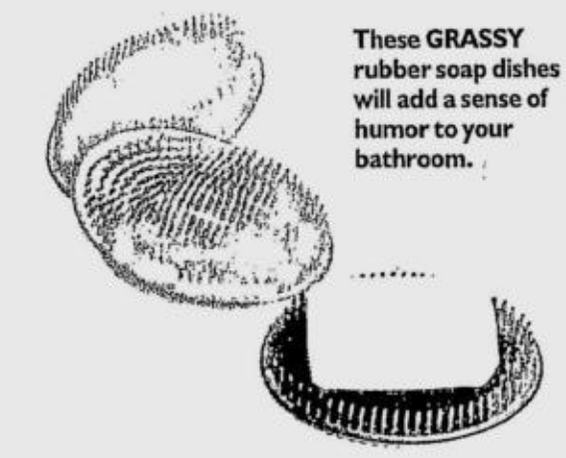
Our Home stores are located at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, V-Mall, the Block at SM City North-EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacoor, Sta. Rosa, Baguio, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, Marilao, Dasmariñas, Batangas, Iloilo, and Cagayan de Oro.

ROOM mist sprays with delicious Green apple and Orange scents and refreshing floral scents of rose and lavender.

OUR Home's Christmas Collection of scented candles with choices like Holly Berry, Pine Snowflake and Apple Cinnamon.



A set of 12 flavored Christmas candles.



These GRASSY rubber soap dishes will add a sense of humor to your bathroom.

EXTRA strong multi-colored card resin magnets help remind you of things to do.

Heat up a cup of refreshing tea or hot coffee this chilly season.

BRING some colors to your bathroom with these wishbone soap dishes.

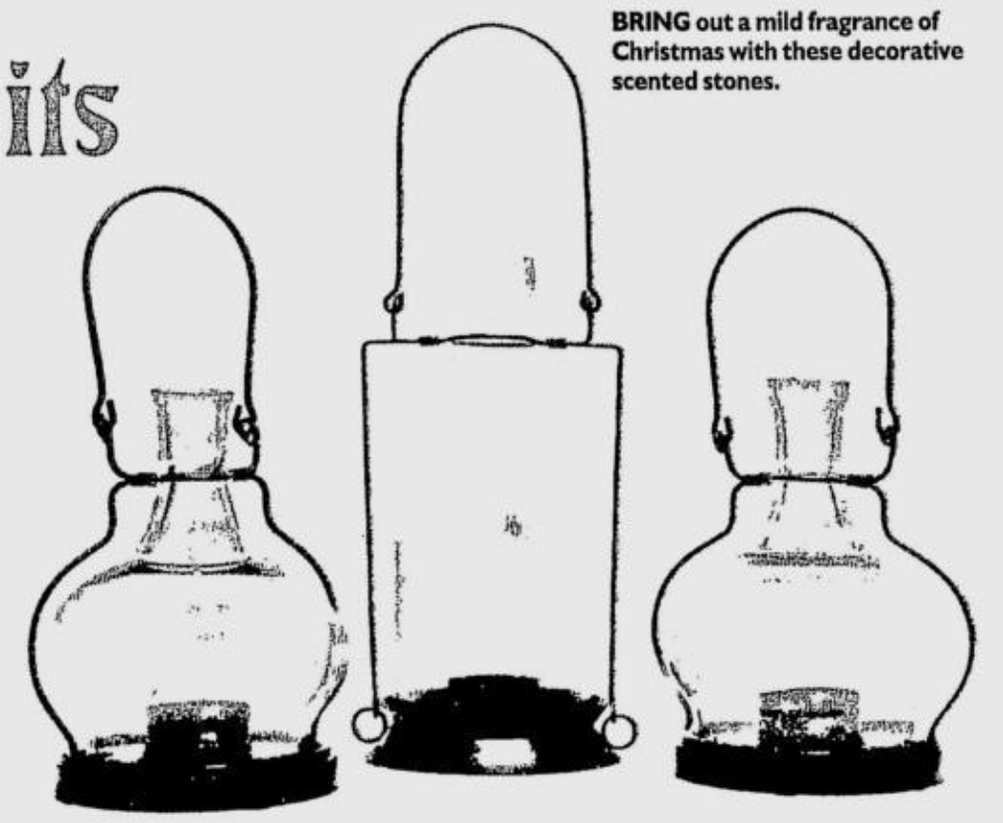
A TEA light set in cheerful colors of blue, green and lilac.

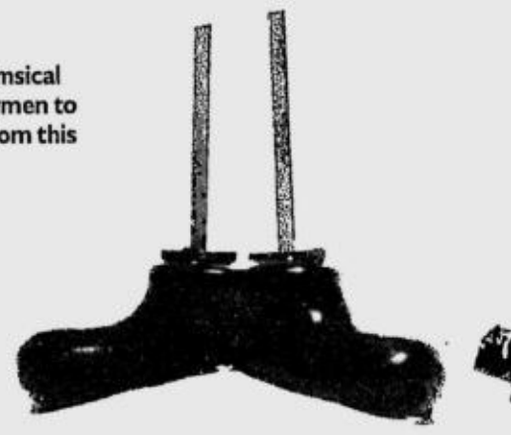
BRING out a mild fragrance of Christmas with these decorative scented stones.

Homegrown Hits

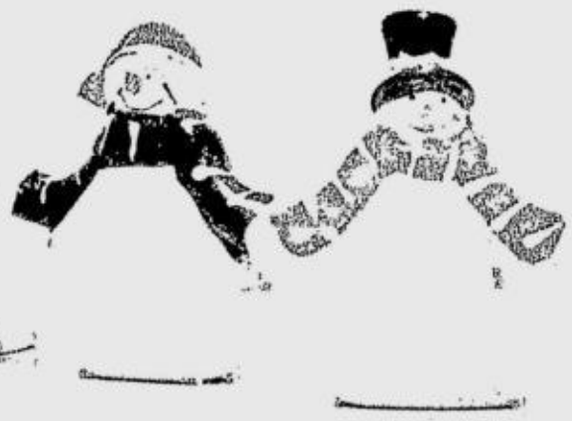
Take a peek at these special finds from Our Home

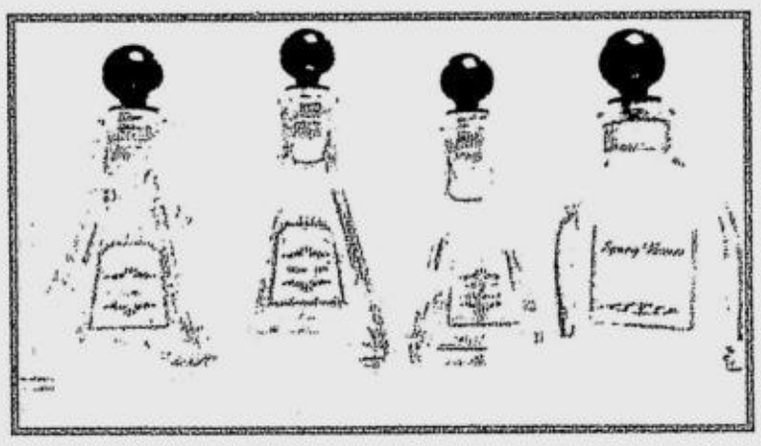
THESE snowmen are great for chilling out.





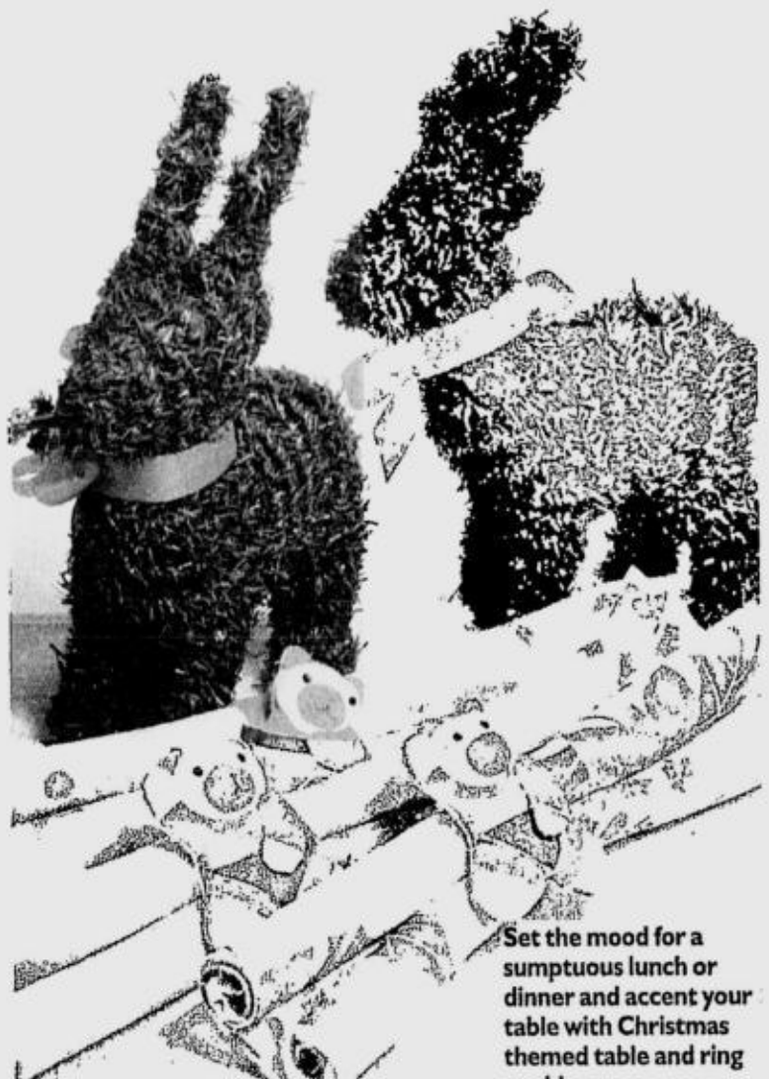
FUN and whimsical ceramic snowmen to grace your room this Christmas.



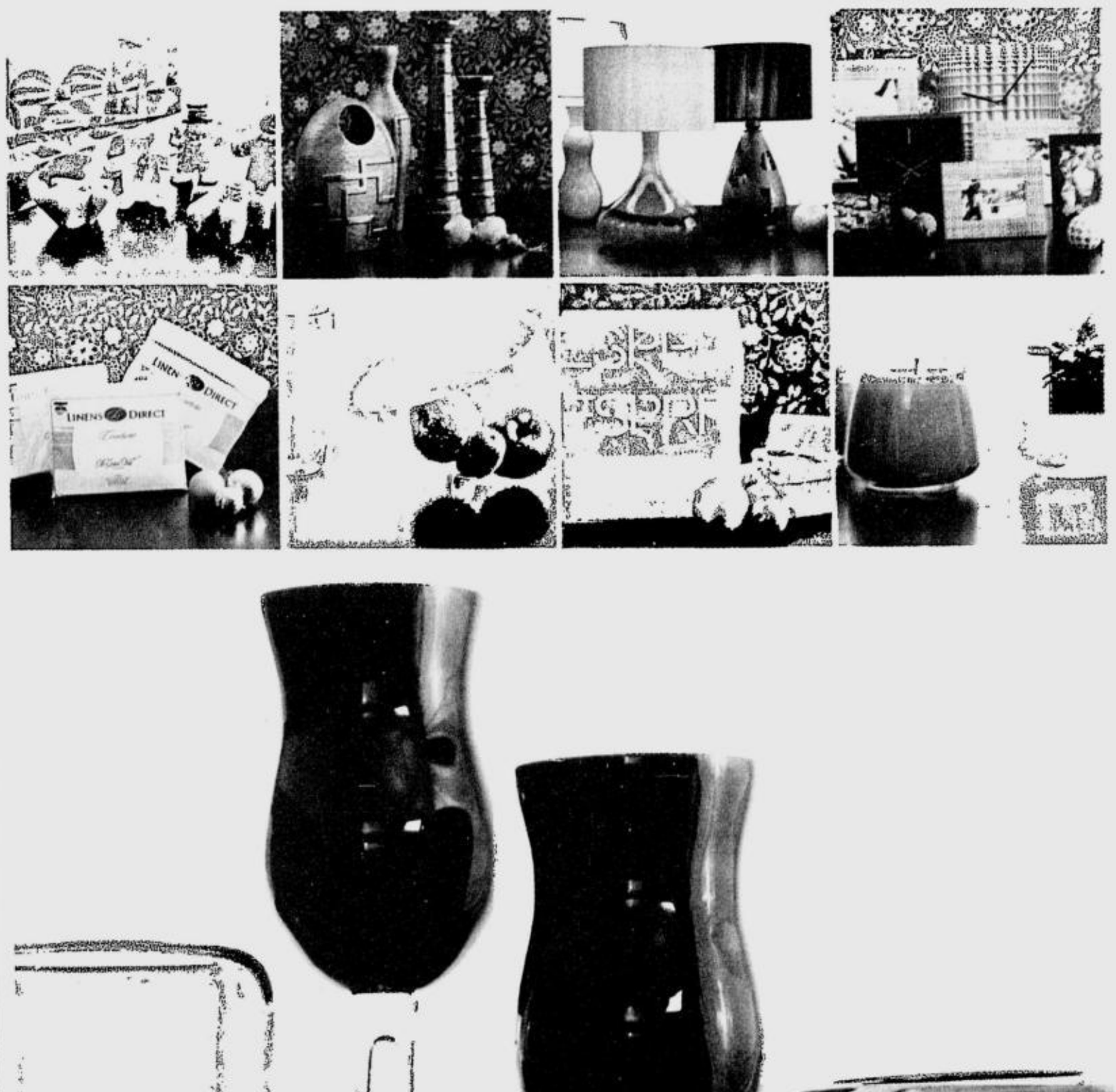


PASTEL colored candelabras to light up your room.

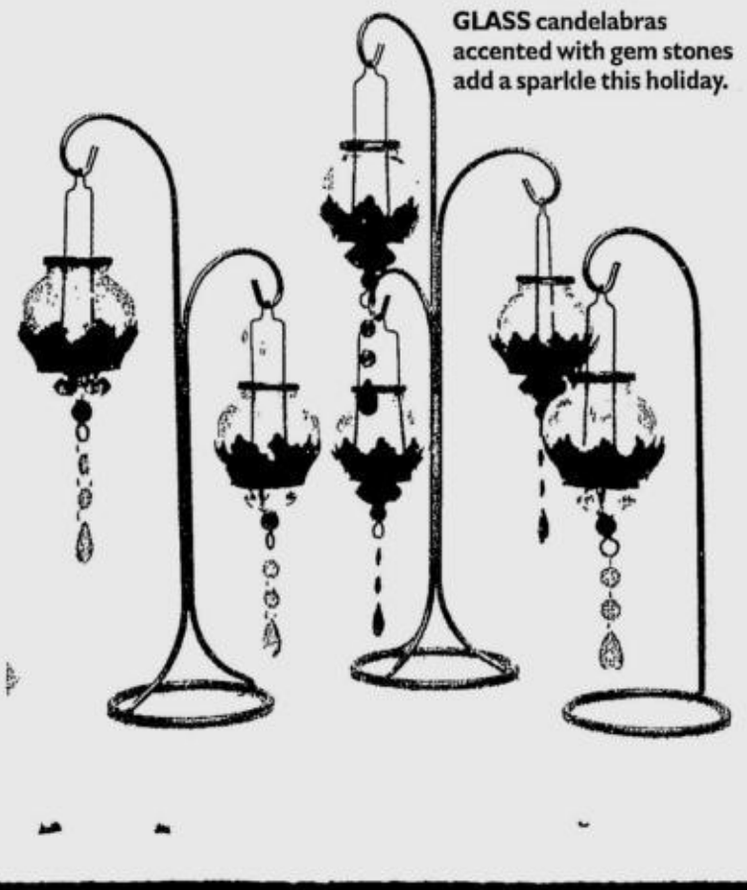
FEEL the scents of Christmas with these scented Reed Diffusers in lilac, Fresh Linen, Green Tea and Cucumber and Spring Breeze flavors.



Set the mood for a sumptuous lunch or dinner and accent your table with Christmas themed table and ring napkins.



Feel the Christmas Spirit in your kitchen with these lovely pot holders, table napkins and oven covers.



GLASS candelabras accented with gem stones add a sparkle this holiday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

The new standard in baby care launched

"IT'S THE NEW STANDARD IN BABY CARE!" Daphne Osena Paez was heard saying. The reason for her excitement? Splash's new BabySpa Naturals Care line, which was launched last Monday, Nov. 19, at the Palm Grove in Rockwell, Makati. Daphne, who is hands-on mom to three-year old Sophia and one-year old Lily, also hosted the event.

The new BabySpa Naturals Care line-VCO Anti-Bacterial Baby Wash, VCO Skin and Hair Nourishing Baby Oil, and the breakthrough VCO Skin Protecting Liquid Powder (yep, that's right, a liquid powder) is made from the purest extracts of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO). "This is a first of its kind product, there's nothing like it in the Philippines" shared BabySpa Naturals brand manager Rainier P. Dagala. "It's the first brand to hinge on the credibility of a Natural Ingredient - VCO!"

Launched with the help of The Little Gym, which facilitated a parachute activity with mothers and their babies, BabySpa was introduced in an atmosphere of extreme fun and caring. White was the color of the day, to reflect the pureness of product line; and the general mood was one of enthusiasm. The arrival of BabySpa couldn't have come at a better time, when mothers are more discerning, educated, and forever on the lookout for gentler and more natural products in caring for baby.

In line with Splash Corp's commitment to launch pioneering and innovative products, they paved the way for moms to experience a naturally safe, gentle, and effective personal care experience. BabySpa's Naturals Baby Care products all have the VCO-Tri Lauricare Action which guarantees that all the known and proven natural, healthy, skin -nourishing and anti-bacterial benefits of only the purest extract of Virgin Coconut Oil can provide are present in BabySpa products. Formulated side by side with a dermatologist, the products underwent numerous testings to guarantee mildness and hypoallergenicity. They contain no harsh ingredients, synthetic fillers, mineral oil, and other petroleum-based ingredients.

In this line of products, noteworthy is the BabySpa VCO Skin Protecting Liquid Powder. This product will end the long drawn out debate about the risks of using loose powder and its relation to causing pulmonary problems among babies. It is because BabySpa VCO Skin Protecting Liquid Powder starts off as a soft lotion when applied then becomes a silky powder on the skin. Thus, there is no talc dispersal that usually causes respiratory problems. It is powered by the combination of the VCO Tri-Lauricare Action, Cornstach and Vitamin E, so it aids in the prevention of skin dermatitis. Regular use helps prevent chafing, making it perfect for use in the diaper area.

The VCO Skin Nourishing Baby Oil, on the other hand is formulated especially for the skin and combines Tri-LauriCare Action and ProNourish E+ Moisture. It protects, smoothens, and nourishes the natural lipids of the skin. Thus, skin is kept naturally soft, supple, and germ-free.

The VCO Hair Nourishing Baby Oil, is Baby Oil especially formulated for the hair. It combines Tri-LauriCare Action and NutirLock D+ Moisture, making it an ideal scalp conditioner. When applied to the hair, it penetrates every strand, deep into the cortex for the growth of healthy hair and prevents the growth of bacteria. It provides intense long lasting moisturization and improves luster and sheen of hair, leaving baby's hair naturally healthy, tangle-free, soft, and shiny.

BabySpa VCO Anti-Bacterial Baby Wash is another innovation in one of the most traditional product formats. It contains the revolutionary Tri-LauriCare Action, Coconut Milk, and Vitamins E and B5. It is very gentle so it doesn't sting the eyes, making it perfect for use on the body as well as on the hair. Its ultra-gentle base guarantees that baby's skin and scalp is free from irritation and harsh dryness.

All products are available in leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

MFI 22ND GRADUATION RITES

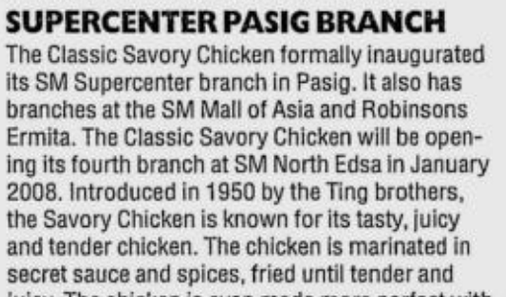
A total of 136 MFI scholars who successfully completed the three-year requirements for the Industrial Technician Program of MFI Technological Institute (MFITI), formerly Meralco Foundation Institute, were honored during the 22nd commencement exercises held recently at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Top photo shows MFI officials and guest holding hands during the opening ceremonies. From left: Manolo S. Santos, MFITI head; Dr. William T. Torres, MFI trustee; Antonio M. Kosca, MFI chief operating officer and trustee; director Noel Yasay of Texas Instruments (TI) for procurement (representing TI president Norberto Viera), guest speaker; Col Alex T. Escaño, MFI president; and Ofelia Galvez, chair, MFI Information Technology Department. Photo below shows the graduating students reciting the pledge of loyalty to alma mater.

THE ASEAN FARMERS CONGRESS

Inahgen 2008, The Asean Farmers Congress, the largest and the most prestigious agribusiness exhibition will be staged on Feb. 27-29, 2008 at SMX Convention Center, Halls 1-4, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Photo shows the contract signing of gold and silver sponsors as witnessed by the leaders from the livestock and poultry industry. Shown are (seated from left): Albert R.T. Lim Jr, president, NFHFI; Learny Tanada, finance committee of Inahgen; Jimmy Chua of Infarmco Group of Companies (gold sponsor), also the congress co-chair; Danny Sanchez, Inahgen Congress chair, and the president of Agriman Enterprises (silver sponsor); Geogie San Diego, president of Ubra and Egg Board; (standing, 1st row from left): Rolando Ricasata and Reena Del Mundo of San Miguel Health Care (gold sponsor); Mildred Esquillo, vice president of Dataserve Management, event manager; Jayjay Gallardo of Agrimate (silver sponsor); Joyce Jane Sevilla of Cargill (gold sponsor); Dr. Tom Gurubat of Merial (silver sponsor); Dr. Vic Atienza, assistant director of BAI; Mayette Ramos, president of Dataserve Management; Dr. Abet Villacorte of Aces (silver sponsor); (standing, third row from left): Ronald Vergel De Dios of Pfizer Animal Health (gold sponsor); Francisco Buencamino, president of Pampi; Ely Yu, treasurer of NFHFI; Dr. Gilbert Cervantes of Hypig Genetics Inc (gold sponsor); Dr. Art Roxas of Ariela Marketing (gold sponsor); Tobias Boldt of Bayer Animal Health Care (silver sponsor). The congress will focus on animal health, genetics and nutrition. There will be technical seminars, live animal display, and boar auction during the 3 day event. Registration is free. Register On line at www.inahgen.com.

SAVORY INAUGURATES SM SUPERCENTER PASIG BRANCH

The Classic Savory Chicken formally inaugurated its SM Supercenter branch in Pasig. It also has branches at the SM Mall of Asia and Robinsons Ermita. The Classic Savory Chicken will be opening its fourth branch at SM North Edsa in January 2008. Introduced in 1950 by the Ting brothers, the Savory Chicken is known for its tasty, juicy and tender chicken. The chicken is marinated in secret sauce and spices, fried until tender and juicy. The chicken is even made more perfect with the special gravy. Aside from the Savory Chicken, the menu also includes other popular Chinese dishes. After over 50 years, the third generation of the Ting family who opened the first Savory branch in Escolta are re-launching the Classic Savory Chicken so that future generations can continue to savor this unique fried chicken and other specialties. Present in the event for ribbon-cutting were (from left): Ramon Tan, president of The Classic Savory Chicken; Daisy Chua, vice president for leasing of SM Supermalls; and Eduardo Tan, director of The Classic Savory Chicken.



SARAH IS THE NEWEST XTREME MAGIC SING ENDORSER

The Astra Group Inc, exclusive distributors of XTreme Magic Sing Videoke Microphones signed up Sarah Geronimo, the Extreme Pop Star, as its newest endorser at the Mactan function room of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. As the newest endorser of the popular videoke microphone, Sarah is expected to do TV and radio commercials, print ads and grace some of the events that will be sponsored by Xtreme Magiac Sing. Photo shows (from left): Vic Del Rosario of Viva Entertainment, Sarah Geronimo and Orville M. Roque, president of The Astra Group Inc during the contract signing.

ProductFiles

Walk on the wild side with Rider sandals

RIDER SANDALS WERE DEVELoped for those of us who are always on the go. Continuing its ongoing commitment to superior design, comfort and technology, the Rider line is filled with vibrant colors, ergonomic construction and unsurpassed comfort to help keep up with life's ever changing terrain. Rider sandals are developed with distinct technologies such as the exclusive Flexpand materials and Aerogel cushioning system which deliver maximum comfort and wearability. Inspired by nature, Rider's sandals are available in a different styles and colors for men, women, children and infants. From casual to sporty, the line offers an array of sandals, thongs and flip-flops that feature a modern, innovative and spirited design. Rider sandals are manufactured by Grendene S.A. Established in 1971, Grendene is a leader in the Brazilian market and is also one of the world's largest footwear manufacturers. The products are exported to more than 85 countries in the 5 continents. Visit Rider outlets located at Sports Central (SM Manila, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM Mall of Asia), The Athlete's Foot (Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, Galleria, Ermita, Sta. Lucia), Planet Sports (Trinoma, Power Plant Rockwell), Olympic Village (Trinoma, Alabang Town Center, Galleria, Sta. Lucia).

Glazier Hotdog is here

GLAZIER, THE NO. 1 HOTDOG BRAND IN THE east coast, is made specially for Filipino diners by Filfresh. Glazier hotdog can be enjoyed anytime of the day, as a main meal or a side dish. In photo is the Glazier Breakfast Potatoes, potatoes seasoned and roasted with Glazier hotdogs and fresh herbs, topped with a fried egg and sour cream. The recipe was prepared by chef Bruce Lim, host of Studio 23's cooking show "Tablescapes".

A new concept in men's grooming

BARBER SHOP PAtrons will be very pleased to know that the same 'just cut, no frills' service has just gotten better with ExpressCut - a new concept in men's grooming. Where else can you get a quick, stylish haircut and look squeaky clean afterwards? Now, you don't have to worry about those tiny stubbles that get into your clothes or remain on your skin and lead to itchy rashes. ExpressCut's new hair vacuum cleaning system keeps you clean every step of the way - ensuring that no single strand of cut hair will remain on your shoulders or your clothes. Unlike other barber shops that brush away or shampoo off the hair trimmings, ExpressCut's vacuum cleaning system is less tedious and less time-consuming. Not only that, ExpressCut's highly-efficient barbers have undergone professional training - ensuring their familiarity with the basics and most of today's popular hairstyles. Hence, walk-in customers can be assured of a quick, personalized cut that conforms to their tastes. ExpressCut also adheres to its high standards of sanitation and cleanliness, and boasts of very affordable rates. Customers can get the best haircut experience for as low as P65. Best of all, there's always an ExpressCut outlet near you, as they are strategically located in convenient areas such as leading malls, near schools and popular residential/commercial areas. Feel the difference. Try the ExpressCut experience!

BITS Clips

Design Lab 07 finalists announced

ELECTROLUX ANNOUNCES THIS YEAR'S DESIGN LAB FINALISTS IN ITS global competition with eco-design the theme Electrolux, a leading household appliance innovator, has chosen eight finalists to compete for first place in Electrolux Design Lab 07, the fifth edition of this annual global competition. Hundreds of design students from around the world entered this year's competition and were challenged to present their ideas on for eco-friendly and sustainable household appliances and solutions for 2020. The finalists are: Return Pot: plastic decomposer, by Juan Ying-Hao from Cranbrook Academy of Art, USA; Fog Shower: water-saving shower, by João Diego Schimansky from Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil; Pebble: solar food cooker by Laura Pandelle from École Boulle, France; e-Wash: natural detergent washing machine by Levente Szabó from Moholy-Nagy University of Art & Design, Hungary; Pure: dual kitchen sink and detergent-free compact dishwasher by Tatjana Voronova from Hochschule für Gestaltung Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany; NatureWind: eco-solar air cleaner by Bae Won-Ho from Dong-A University, South Korea; Circompo: automatic food composter by Thanat Tengamnuay from King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; Go Fresh: energy-saving fridge with individual, honeycomb-shaped compartments by He Cheng Fei from Jiangnan University, China. They have all been invited to the final judging event and award ceremony in Paris, where the winner of Design Lab 07 will be announced on Nov. 28. The Design Lab 2007 has a first prize of 5,000 Euro and a six-month internship at one of Electrolux's global design centers. Design Lab is an annual global design competition open to undergraduate and graduate industrial design students who are invited to present innovative ideas for household appliances of the future. More details on the current as well as past editions of Design Lab can be found on the competition's 'Webby Award' winning website: www.ElectroluxDesignLab.com.

Fund-raising concert for Beaterio De Madre Francisca Foundation

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE, MANILA WILL HOLD A FUND-RAISING PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT of the Beaterio De Madre Francisca Foundation, Inc which will coincide with the celebration of the 301 years of the foundation of the school. This is a musical concert entitled "Jay-R in Sounds and Rhythm" featuring Jay-R with special participation of Kris Lawrence and introducing Twinkle and Arlo. This will be held at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater) on Nov. 30. The main objective of this undertaking is to provide and sustain the existing school programs, particularly for the scholarships, catechetical and extension services programs, improvement of school facilities, and the spiritual and professional development of school personnel. Tickets are available at Sta. Catalina College, Manila (tel. nos. 734-6861 or 734-6817) and CCP Box Office (tel. no. 832-1125).

PBM asks for support for Christmas Smiles

THE PHILIPPINE BAND OF MERCY (PBM), AN INSTITUTION THAT ATTENDS TO INDIGENT FILIPINOS suffering from cleft lip/palate, is calling for patrons to help them carry out this year's leg of their annual Christmas party dedicated to kids whom they have successfully operated during the year. Dubbed Christmas Smiles, the project, which started in 1975, aims to let 250 selected PBM beneficiaries and their families experience the Christmas spirit in abundance. The party is slated on Dec. 6, 2 p.m. at the PBM Compound on #22 East Avenue, Quezon City and will be graced by actor and active PBM advocate Matt Ranillo III. Besides serving as a timely get-together for the PBM family, the program will also showcase the talents of PBM kids, who are set to perform varied song and dance numbers. The program will be highlighted by the distribution of gift bags to all participants. For this year alone, PBM has already operated 1,576 less-endowed children nationwide. PBM is also an international member of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association and has expanded its cleft surgical missions nationwide, catering to the needs of almost 2,000 kids. This is in line with its present partnership with Smile Train USA, targeting another 1,000 cleft surgeries from October 2007 to December 2008. PBM is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (No.3156) and accredited by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification and the Department of Social Welfare & Development. It is a certified "donee institution" and donations to it are 100 percent tax deductible. For donations of cash, food, canned goods, snacks, clothes or toys, you can contact PBM at 928-8539 or 928-8566 or text 0917-9624162 and ask for Pat Dungan. You may also reach PBM through its website: www.philbandofmercy.org.

Unilab develops method to detect cancer drug resistance

UNITED LABORATORIES INC (UNILAB), THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST AND LEADING PHARMACEUTIcal and healthcare company, has developed a method to detect cancer drug resistance in human genes. The new method is helpful in determining better anti-cancer treatment among Filipino patients. Cancer is the third leading cause of illness and death among Filipinos. According to the Department of Health, about 53 cases per 100,000 population occurs every year in the country. While many types of cancer are treatable, some types are resistant to anti-cancer drugs, caused by Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR1) genes in certain cancer cells. "MDR1 genes encode for P-glycoprotein which, when produced in excessive amounts, acts as a pump that actively expels anti-cancer drugs," explains Unilab medical director Dr. Alexander Tuazon. "This results in resistance to anti-cancer drug and consequently, a failure in treatment." Unilab's method to detect cancer drug resistance was developed by one of its Filipino scientists Dr. Leila Florento who specifically studied leukemia cells. Dr. Florento developed the method after discovering the over-production of P-glycoprotein by MDR1 genes in cancer patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia who failed anti-cancer treatment. "By knowing cancer cell gene's resistance to anti-cancer drugs, doctors are able to prescribe better anti-cancer medication to Filipino patients to ensure their treatment," notes Dr. Tuazon. The study on cancer drug resistance is one of several medical studies being conducted by Unilab aimed at better understanding major life-threatening diseases like cancer so that it can continue to develop safe, effective, and affordable healthcare products for Filipinos.

Fatima Dental Education forges 5-year MOU with HKU

OUR LADY OF FATIMA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY FORGED A 5-YEAR MEMORANDUM OF AGREEment with the prestigious Hong Kong University Faculty of Dentistry last Nov. 18. The MOU was formally signed by Olfu dean Arturo De Leon and HKU dean Lakshman Samaranayake in Aberdeen, Hong Kong. The signing coincided with the 25th Founding Anniversary Celebration of HKU's Faculty of Dentistry. The agreement between Olfu and HKU provides both universities with the opportunity for Collaborative Teaching and Research Endeavors, Faculty and Student Exchange Grants, Best Practices Consultation and Benchmarking Programs and other inter-institutional privileges and benefits. It is also worth noting that Olfu College of Dentistry has a standing International Agreement of Cooperation with the Kanagawa Dental College of Japan. This Agreement, like that with HKU provides programs that are highly beneficial to the Universities; thus making Olfu College of Dentistry a provider of premier dental education in the Philippines. olfu's College of Dentistry was recognized as the Top Performing School last December 2006.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

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Save the Children

Save the Children US is a non-government organization and one of the leading international development organizations in the world. The mission of Save the Children is to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents. Save the Children is a non-political non-religious international organization that prides itself in independence and neutrality.

SC PhCO focuses on four priority results: 1) Children are protected from harm through physical and psychosocial assistance; 2) Children learn and develop with age-appropriate care and education; 3) Children are healthy and well-nourished, and 4) Children thrive in food secure and economically viable households. Save the Children Philippines Country Office (SC PhCO) has been operating in the Philippines for over 25 years with programs with the aim of providing child-focused programs in the sectors of Education, Health and Nutrition, Emergencies and Crisis.

Save the Children is the lead implementing partner of the USAID-funded EQuALLS2 Education Quality and Access to Learning and Livelihood Skills 2) is searching for qualified candidates for:

ASCEND Mindanao

(Assistance for the Comprehensive Educational Development of Mindanao)

a project that seeks to increase access to quality basic and livelihood skills education among children and youth in the poorest, conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, is urgently seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

ASCEND covers 17 cities and municipalities and consists of three clusters of:
- Increased learning opportunities for children and youth through community support for education
- Strengthened capacity for teaching English, Science and Math
- Improved relevance and training for out of school children and youth

Educator Professional Development Specialist
Based in Zamboanga City. (Code: EPDS)

Responsible for the design and delivery of educator capacity building interventions (focused on the National English Proficiency Program (NEPP) and English-Science-Math instructional improvements) covering both public school and madrasah systems. S/he will liaise closely with the DepEd, EDC and the ASCEND field based teams.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Serve as technical lead/resource person for the conduct of the various educator professional development activities
- Ensure the timely completion of deliverables, including the conduct of NEPP mentor training, district-level core and refresher training on English-Science-Math, and school-based teacher training sessions to ensure the field-level roll out of NEPP and core training professional development inputs
- Lead in identifying local level partners for educator professional development, including teacher education institutions, NGOs and other Mindanao-based basic education projects
- Design and deliver capacity building modules to facilitate the implementation of district to school-level activities
- In tandem with field-based teams, assist in the identification of partner madaris and lead in the implementation of professional development activities for madrasah administrators and asatidz
- Supervise Training & Implementation Coordinator in the conduct of teacher training, school-based follow-up and monitoring, DepEd/other partner liaison work, and documentation processes
- Conduct regular technical assistance/monitoring visits to partner schools and madaris to ensure the effective roll-out of activities
- Assist the field-based education teams in doing liaison and networking activities with DepEd partners, Mindanao teacher education institutions and other stakeholders
- Participate in EQuALLS2 technical working groups, coordination meetings, and other activities, as may be required

Minimum Qualifications: In addition to the common qualification requirements for all Specialist and Coordinator positions,
- At least six years experience in teacher training/educator capacity building, with a focus on basic education
- Experience in Mindanao education, particularly in the public basic education sector, ALS A&E system and madrasah system, preferred
- Has developed a network of contacts within the Mindanao DepEd system, teacher education institutions, and/or Mindanao madaris
- Familiarity with teacher training in support of the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (RBEC), Education for All (EFA), NEPP implementation, and tested English-Science-Math instructional improvement approaches an advantage
- Holds a Master's degree in education, or equivalent experience
- Proven ability to develop, design, organize and deliver large-scale educator professional development programs including but not limited to teacher training activities

Alternative Learning and Livelihoods Specialist
Based in Davao City. (Code: ALLS)

Responsible for providing technical leadership to the youth alternative learning and livelihood skills training activities for ASCEND Mindanao's focus municipalities/cities. This will involve work in ALS accreditation and equivalency, literacy-life skills-livelihoods programming and skills training/industry immersion opportunities for out of school children and youth, as well as the design/delivery of additional alternative learning interventions that may be needed by communities based on findings from community engagement process. S/he will liaise closely with the field-based ASCEND staff composed of the Education Team Leaders and Municipal Coordinators, as well as with the other Technical Specialists, particularly for Community Engagement

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Serve as technical lead/resource person for the design, development or delivery of appropriate learning opportunities for out of school children and youth
- Ensure the timely attainment of program deliverables and service reach targets for the youth alternative learning component
- In tandem with the Community Engagement Specialist and field-based ASCEND Mindanao staff, work closely with community-based education stakeholders to ensure that their identified learning and skills priorities are adequately addressed by ASCEND/EQuALLS2 offerings
- Provide technical oversight, mentoring and supervision to the team of Instructional Managers, learning facilitators and/or service providers that will be tapped to implement learning opportunities at the field level
- Liaise closely with DepEd, TESDA, local government units, business organizations and other partners to generate support for initiatives
- Supervise the Livelihood/Logistics Coordinator in the conduct of activities
- Participate in EQuALLS2 technical working groups, coordination meetings and other activities, as may be required
- Conduct regular technical assistance/monitoring visits to partner communities to ensure the effective implementation of programs

Community Engagement Training and Implementation Coordinator
Based in Davao City. (Code: CE-TIC)

Assist the Community Engagement Specialist in the preparations for, and the conduct, documentation and evaluation of, community processes for ASCEND/EQuALLS2 implementation. S/he will liaise closely with the field-based teams of Education Team Leaders and Municipal Coordinators, as well as with the Admin/Finance team.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Co-facilitate/assist in the conduct of capacity building and community mobilization activities with key education stakeholders, in tandem with the field-based teams
- Ensure up-to-date documentation of community engagement activities, agreements and outputs
- Assist field-based teams in liaising with local government and DepEd officials, community/parent leaders, pupil government and youth/learner representatives and other stakeholders to ensure the smooth implementation of activities
- Coordinate with key staff (i.e., Municipal Coordinators, Admin/Finance Team) in the preparations for and conduct of community engagement activities
- Participate in EQuALLS2 technical working groups, coordination meetings and other activities, as may be required
- Assist in the conduct of technical assistance/monitoring visits to partner communities, in tandem with the Specialist
- Provide regular updates on the status of community engagement activities to the Specialist and/or the Project Director

Minimum Qualifications
- At least three years experience in community development/community mobilization, community stakeholder capacity building, and LGU advocacy
- Experience in Mindanao education assistance programs (public school, alternative learning or other) preferred
- Has developed a network of contacts within the Mindanao DepEd system, LGUs, and community development/NGO circles
- Familiarity with RA 9155/Governance in Basic Education, school-based management, school improvement planning, Education for All (EFA) and community mobilization in support of education issues an advantage
- Holds a Bachelor's degree in education or community development, or equivalent experience

Communication and Program Learning Specialist
Based in Davao City. (Code: CPLS)

Lead in the documentation and strategic communications work of ASCEND Mindanao. S/he will liaise closely with the ASCEND technical specialists as well as the field-based teams led by the Education Team Leaders; work closely with the EQuALLS2 EDC specialists for strategic communication.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Provide support to the field-based teams in the documentation and packaging of program experiences into appropriate publications/productions for specific target audiences
- Lead project team efforts to complete required program progress reports and ensure on-time submission
- Assist the project team in compiling process guides, session guides, modules or manuals needed to facilitate the effective roll-out/implementation of ASCEND activities for community engagement, educator professional development and alternative learning
- Ensure the consistent application of EQuALLS2 and Save the Children communication and branding guidelines
- Coordinate with EDC, USAID and other EQuALLS2 partners in the conduct of media liaison work, public events and other strategic communications initiatives
- Participate in EQuALLS2 technical working groups, coordination meetings and other activities, as may be required

Education Team Leader – Zamboanga del Norte / Zamboanga City / Isabela City *
(Code: ETL-ZNZI)

(* Geographical Coverage: One of 4 ETL positions.
The others filled up are: ETL – Cotabato/ Maguindanao / SK, ETL - Sibugay / Zamboanga del Sur, and ETL - Sulu

Lead and oversee the coordinated implementation of ASCEND/EQuALLS2 project activities and deliverables in their assigned geographic cluster, with a particular focus on the components of community engagement, LGU advocacy, representation and networking, and monitoring and evaluation. S/he will be based in area of assignment Mindanao and will report to the Project Director

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Provide overall leadership, mentoring and supervision to the field-based team of Municipal Coordinators and Barangay Facilitators in assigned geographic cluster
- Accountable for the on-time and on-target delivery of project targets for community engagement, educator professional development and alternative learning for the assigned municipalities and barangays
- Lead in the networking, representation and advocacy efforts with the provincial government, DepEd division level partners, TESDA provincial partners and other key stakeholders
- Lead in the identification and tapping of other education partners from local teacher education institutes, academe, tech-voc training providers, business entities, NGOs, EQuALLS partners, and religious/community leaders in support of ASCEND targets
- Assist and support the Municipal Coordinators in the conduct of community engagement activities as well as in advocacy efforts with the municipal-level local government as well as the DepEd districts
- Coordinate closely with the ASCEND IR specialists and other team members so that field-based teams are adequately supported in the implementation of project activities
- Liaise with the EDC team of Area Coordinators as well as with other EQuALLS2 implementing partners in the area of coverage to ensure smooth project implementation
- Provide backstopping support where needed to the ASCEND Project Director
- Conduct regular field visits to partner communities to ensure the effective implementation of community engagement, educator professional development and alternative learning initiatives

Municipal Coordinator **
(Code: MC – indicate Municipality as listed below)

(** Geographical Coverage: 17 municipalities covered by Teams are:
- Cotabato/ Maguindanao / SK - Midsayap in North Cotabato; Datu Piang and Datu Saudi in Maguindanao, Mamasapan (also includes Lunayan in Sultan Kudarat but filled)
- Sibugay / Zamboanga del Sur - Alicia, Malangas, Olutanga, Dinas in Zamboanga Sur, Margosatubig (also includes San Miguel but filled)
- Zamboanga del Norte / Zamboanga City / Isabela City – Siocon, Salug, Isabela City, (also includes Zamboanga City but filled)
- Sulu Talipao/Luuk

Responsible for generating and ensuring partners' and stakeholders' support and cooperation as well as participation in the planning and execution of program interventions/activities for ASCEND Mindanao. S/he will facilitate the formulation of implementation arrangements as well as sustainability mechanisms for the different program components.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Serve as operational leader for the assigned focus municipality, ensuring that deliverables for the area of coverage are completed effectively and in a timely manner
- Plan and organize program activities appropriate to each geographic area covered;
- Design and adopt community-level strategies to operationalize plans and programs;
- Do community advocacy and mobilization, and ensure the participation of community partners in program processes and activities.
- Coordinate closely with IR specialists and/or training/implementation coordinators in ensuring the timely implementation of project deliverables for community engagement, educator professional development and youth alternative learning/livelihoods
- Monitor and evaluate progress of implementation, identify concerns or issues as well as action or decision points;
- Prepare and submit reports- progress, quarterly, annual, etc-
- Supervise the work of the team of Barangay Facilitators and/or Instructional Managers/Learning Facilitators (if any) that may be assigned to the municipality

Competencies and Qualification Requirements:
- Graduate of a four-year degree program, preferably in Education or Community Development
- Experience of at least two years in community mobilization, or in implementing education development projects
- Resident of the province where he/she will serve as Coordinator
- Achievement orientation, Time management, Initiative, Interpersonal skills, Leading communities, Positive work attitude, Program implementation, Respect for confidentiality, Developing sustainability, Cultural awareness and sensitivity, Organizational and project commitment, Training skills and competencies
- Analytical skills, Conceptual thinking, Program design and Written communication skills and competencies an also preferred

Barangay Facilitator ***
(Code: BF - indicate Municipality as listed below)

(*** Geographical Coverage: 17 municipalities covered by Teams are:
- Cotabato/ Maguindanao / SK - 2 BF for Midsayap in North Cotabato, 1 BF for Datu Piang, 1 BF for Mamasapan (also includes Lunayan in Sultan Kudarat but filled)
- Sibugay / Zamboanga del Sur – 1 BF each for Alicia, Malangas, Olutanga, Dinas in Zamboanga Sur, Margosatubig (also includes San Miguel but filled)
- Zamboanga del Norte / Zamboanga City / Isabela City – 1 BF each for Siocon, Salug,
- Sulu - 2 BF for Talipao/Luuk

Assist in field-level community engagement processes in their respective assigned municipalities. S/he will report to the Municipal Coordinator, and liaise closely with the Community Engagement Specialist and the Community Engagement Training/Implementation Coordinator

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Assist the Municipal Coordinator in organizing and delivering community engagement activities appropriate to each geographic area covered
- Ensure that appropriate documentation of community engagement activities and agreements is completed
- Coordinate closely with barangay officials, school heads, PTCAs, parents, community volunteers, pupils/youth learners and other key stakeholders in the conduct of IR1 activities
- Assist in the facilitation of capacity building and community mobilization activities for community partners
- Assist in liaison and coordination work with local partners as well as with EDC staff and other EQuALLS2 implementers
- Provide regular monitoring and reporting assistance to the Municipal Coordinator as well as other project specialists and staff

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
Based in Davao City. (Code: M&EC)

Support the ASCEND Mindanao team in tracking the progress of program activities in relation to project objectives and M&E framework. S/he will liaise closely with ASCEND technical specialists as well as the field-based teams led by the Education Team Leaders. She will also work closely with the EQuALLS2 EDC specialist for M&E. Will report to the Project Director.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Lead in ensuring the on-time completion of M&E data collection, analysis and report generation for ASCEND
- Provide regular M&E reports to the Project Director, technical specialists and Education Team Leaders so that these can be used for project decision-making and operations refinement
- Coordinate closely with Save the Children national M&E specialists as well as the EDC M&E team
- Supervise the work of the MIS Staff in the collation of M&E data from ASCEND's field based teams
- Provide M&E-based inputs to the Communications Specialist so that this can be incorporated into project reports and documentation
- Ensure that M&E findings are routinely fed back to field-based teams, so that these may be shared with community stakeholders and partners
- Conduct regular technical assistance visits to partner communities to ensure effective implementation of M&E tasks
- Participate in EQuALLS2 technical working groups, coordination meetings and other activities, as may be required

Management Information Systems Staff
Based in Davao City. (Code: MIS)

Responsible for maintaining the ASCEND data management system required for timely and complete M&E reporting. S/he will be based in Mindanao and will report to the M&E Coordinator.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Complete, update and/or maintain the M&E database for ASCEND, using inputs from all project sites
- Assist the M&E Coordinator in the generation of data analysis and reports for the use of the Project Director and other members of the ASCEND team
- Coordinate regularly with Education Team Leaders and Municipal Coordinators to ensure the timely submission of M&E data requirements
- Work closely with the Save the Children national M&E specialists and EDC M&E staff so that data requirements are routinely met
- Conduct regular technical assistance visits to partner communities to ensure the effective implementation of data collection/data management tasks

Admin/ Finance Assistant
Based in Midsayap, Pagadian, Zamboanga City (Code: AFA – indicate location)

Responsible for providing regular logistical support and admin/finance assistance to the field-based team of Barangay Facilitators, Municipal Coordinators and Education Team Leader; ensuring project transactions and accountabilities comply with Save the Children and project policies and procedures; Provide regular and timely reports and assist in field-based activities where administrative support is required. Will report functionally to the Admin-Finance Officer and administratively to the Education Team Leader in the assigned area of coverage

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Manages the Satellite Office's Revolving Fund (amount to be set-up / for approval)
- Receives excess cash from staff advances and facilitate deposit to SC depository bank
- Closely coordinates with project management office on the logistic requirements of the satellite office
- Provide administrative support to and assist in the documentation of key project activities
- Facilitates admin/finance transaction from program staff to the project management office on travel and cash advance requirements, liquidations, and other similar transactions
- Assist the implementation of SC-ASCEND administrative & financial policies & other directives
- Ensure proper handling, use, and maintenance of office equipment & supplies
- Maintains detailed information on schedules of personnel
- Assist in the monitoring and securing of satellite vehicle on accidents, vehicle usage and condition check report
- Ensures cleanliness and orderliness of office set-up

Driver and General Services Staff
Based in Midsayap, Pagadian, Zamboanga City (Code: DGS– indicate location)

Responsible for driving and maintaining the service vehicle of the satellite office; and in maintaining the cleanliness of the office. S/he will also provide logistical support to the technical staff, assist in banking transactions, purchasing and delivery of materials.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:
- Ensures prompt transport of staff to and from the field , based on duly approved schedule of trips; Delivers project materials from sources to designated destination and ensure completeness as to quality and quantity
- Responsible for the over-all maintenance of assign vehicle to ensure it's always in safe and running condition; Maintains and update vehicle running chart
- Document appropriately and timely any accidents that may happen and report any immediately to supervisor or management
- Ensure compliance to prescribed safety and vehicle rules and regulations
- Assists in the reproduction of materials and purchase of office/training supplies as indicated in the approved purchase order
- Takes charge of timely purchasing function in the satellite office
- Assist in maintaining cleanliness of office and orderly set-up

Competencies and Qualification Requirements: Professional driver's license, Familiarity with the road network and geography of the area, basic understanding of vehicle maintenance and upkeep, Administrative skills, Security policies of Save the Children, Ease in basic communication with various parties – staff, community volunteers, government, donors, etc. local and international, Positive work attitude, Maintaining Confidentiality, Time management

Minimum Qualifications common for all Specialist and Coordinator positions,
- Computer literate and adept in the use of MS Office software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as representational skills
- Ability to work effectively under pressure, and to relate well with a variety of community partners
- A team player, willing to work long hours toward the attainment of project objectives and deliverables

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation

Send resumes on or before Monday, December 10, 2007 but applications sent earlier will be appreciated.
By email: HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org (please indicate respective position code)
By mail to our Mindanao project office Save the Children Federation, Inc.
#8 Agno River St., Rivera Village, J.P. Rizal Laurel Avenue, Davao City (Fax: (082) 228-6076

PHILSSA & WORLD BANK

UPSURGE Project

PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) has received a grant from the Japan Social Development Fund and the World Bank for the project, "URBAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE UPLIFTMENT, RENEWAL, GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT (UPSURGE)," and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

PHILSSA now invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) interested to assist PHILSSA in the implementation of subprojects within Legazpi City. Interested organizations must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services of an implementing agency following the minimum selection criteria:

a. Has identified potential project sites and communities that have pending needs related to infrastructure or site development and housing;
b. Has established relationship with LGUs of identified project sites;
c. Has demonstrated management and organizational capability for community-based infrastructure projects;
d. Has legal personality and legitimate track record as an organization (NGO, NGDO, civic group, cooperative, association, primary or secondary organization) and should have no derogatory record; and
e. Has financial capacity and financial management system.

The assignment is expected to be undertaken within a period of Fifteen (15) months starting March 2008.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). PHILSSA-NPMO shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted Expressions of Interest and have been determined as eligible. The shortlist shall comprise six (6) firms.

Interested organizations may obtain the pre-qualification documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification documents is on **December 21, 2007 (Friday), 5:00PM** at the address below:

Ms. Anna Marie A. Karaos
Project Director, National Project Management Office (NPMO)
Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies
3/F Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex,
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02)426-4328/ 426-0811
Fax No.: (02)426-4327
Email: philssawb@gmail.com

(PDI – November 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : November 18, 2007
ADB Loan No. : 1772–PHI
Contract No : SP-08-009-01

1 The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InIRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Victoria 12.34 Kms. Farm to Market Road, Package 1.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P19,500,000.00) each

2 The *LGU-Victoria* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Victoria 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road Package 1, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and Embankment); Road Gravelling; Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC; and Construction of two Units Concrete Bridges and Overflow Bridge. The Contract Period is about (360 calendar days)

3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat at LGU-Victoria , Victoria, Northern Samar.

4 A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).

5 All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA, N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 19 to December 17, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Preparation Period	November 19 to December 17, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	December 21, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	January 8, 2008	10:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	January 8, 2008	10:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action

7 For further inquiries, you can call cell no. 09286921686/09195128278.

(Sgd.) **MARTHA E. CADANO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date November 18, 2007
ADB Loan No. 1772–PHI
Contract No. SP-08-009-02

1 The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InIRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Victoria 7.42 Kms. Farm to Market Road, Package 2.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Small B contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nine Million Pesos (P9,000,000.00) each

2. The *LGU-Victoria* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Victoria 7.42 kilometers Farm to Market Road Package 2, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and embankment); Road Gravelling; and Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC. The Contract Period is about (240 calendar days).

3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat LGU-Victoria , Victoria, Northern Samar.

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).

5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA, N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 19 to December 17, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Preparation Period	November 19 to December 17, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	December 21, 2007	9:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	January 4, 2008	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	January 4, 2008	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

7. For further inquiries, you can call cell no. 09286921686/09195128278.

(Sgd.) **MARTHA E. CADANO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

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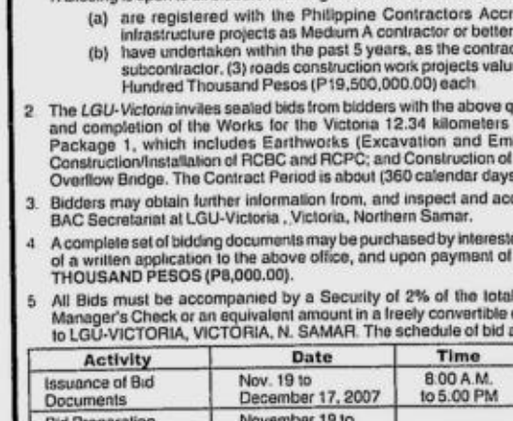

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2% w/out taking car 7262780

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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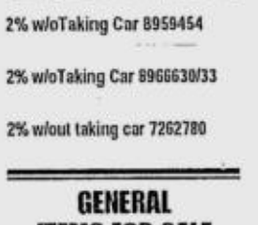

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES VISMIN
PUBLIC AUCTION

VISMIN PROPERTIES: November 29, 2007, Thursday, 2PM, Asean I Room, Waterfront Hotel, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
LUZON PROPERTIES: November 28, 2007, Wednesday, 2PM, Mandarin, Robinsons Summit, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

LOW PRICES! Financing Available | 15% Downpayment! Interest Rate for as low as 7.5% | SHOW MONEY: P25,000 CASH or MC

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6 lots available for as low as Php514/sqm.

CAMILLE SUBDIVISION, BRGY. DALAKIT, CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR
22 lots available for as low as Php1,361/sqm.

AKLAN

LOT 1 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,023 sqm.
Floor Area various
Linabuan Norte, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price 7,435,000

BACOLOD

LOT 2 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,745 sqm.
Floor Area 760 sqm.
Brgy. Estefania, Burgos Extension
Minimum Bid Price 10,791,000

LOT 3 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 23,936 sqm.
Floor Area 36 sqm.
Brgy. Cabug
Minimum Bid Price 2,981,000

BOHOL

LOT 4 LOT ONLY
Lot Area [illegible]
Borja [illegible] Tagbilaran City
Minimum Bid Price
WITHDRAWN

CAGAYAN DE ORO

LOT 5 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 900 sqm.
Upper Canitoan
Minimum Bid Price 1,260,000

CAPIZ

LOT 6 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 9,997 sqm.
Balucuan, Dao
Minimum Bid Price 3,043,000

LOT 7 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 1581-B-2-A Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 765,000

LOT 8 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 1581-B-3-A-2 Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 637,500

LOT 9 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 10,000+10,000 sqm.
Bo. Dinginan, Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 4,555,000

DIPOLOG

LOT 10 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,182 sqm.
Jagis Beach Resort, Brgy. Road, Brgy. Galas, District III
Minimum Bid Price 4,781,000

LOT 11 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 603 sqm.
No. 147 Interior Kapitan Road, Poblacion, Labasan
Minimum Bid Price 788,000

LOT 12 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,941 sqm.
Brgy. Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 1,740,000

LOT 13 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 959 sqm.
National Highway, Brgy. Dawo, Dapitan City
Minimum Bid Price 818,000

GENERAL SANTOS

LOT 14 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,754 sqm.
NLSA Road, Prk. Masunurin, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 3,636,000

LOT 15 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 10,000 sqm.
Conel Road, Brgy. Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 2,381,000

LOT 16 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 11,187 sqm.
Dacera Subd., City Heights
Minimum Bid Price 5,514,000

LOT 17 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,000 sqm
P. Acharon Blvd., Town Proper
Minimum Bid Price 12,750,000

LOT 18 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 450.50 sqm.
Champaca St., Brgy. Dadiangas East
Minimum Bid Price 5,681,000

ILO-ILO

LOT 19 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,643
San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 2,310,000
WITHDRAWN

LOT 20 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 13,397 sqm.
Poblacion, Janiuay
Minimum Bid Price 3,693,000

LEYTE

LOT 21 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,618 sqm.
Lot 15324-B Brgy. Owak, Hilongos
Minimum Bid Price 1,788,000

LOT 22 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 445 sqm.
Lot 1 Brgy. Naga-naga, Palo
Minimum Bid Price 1,696,000

LOT 23 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,300 sqm.
Lot 215 Babatngon Group Settlement, Brgy. Governor Jaro, Babatngon
Minimum Bid Price 863,000

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

LOT 24 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 20,000 sqm.
Brgy. Caridad, Bago City
Minimum Bid Price 3,889,000

LOT 25 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 23,142 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 13,608,000

LOT 26 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 11,571 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 6,122,000

LOT 27 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,800 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 10,069,000

ORMOC

LOT 28 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,556 sqm.
Lot 2-P-2 Bo. Doria Feliza, Mejia Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,721,000

LOT 29 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 11771-B-2-H-14-C Brgy. Cogon, Combado
Minimum Bid Price 1,360,000

LOT 30 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,500 sqm.
Lot 11771-B-2-H-14-B Brgy. Cogon, Combado
Minimum Bid Price 2,040,000

LOT 31 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 6,667 sqm.
Lot 8567-D-4 Brgy. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 2,572,000

LOT 32 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,889 sqm.
Lot 13-H-7 Bo. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price 519,000

LOT 33 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 200 sqm.
Lot 2328-A-1-B Bo. Alegria
Minimum Bid Price 367,000

LOT 34 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,500 sqm.
Lot 5232-C-3 Brgy. Dayhagan (now part of San Isidro)
Minimum Bid Price 4,612,000

LOT 35 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,769 sqm.
Lot 24-2 Bo. Doña Feliza, Mejia Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,119,000

PAGADIAN

LOT 36 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 564 sqm.
A. Salazar St., Lumbia District
Minimum Bid Price 1,161,000

SOUTH COTABATO

LOT 37 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 40,257 sqm.
Provincial Road, Sulit, Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 4,226,000

LOT 38 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,247 sqm.
Cannery Road, Sanchez Subd., Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 2,995,000

LOT 39 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 119,904 sqm.
Brgy. Lunok, Upper Klinan, Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 3,568,000

LOT 40 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,180 sqm.
National Highway (Tacurong-Isulan) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,815,000

LOT 41 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,230 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 3,161,000

LOT 42 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 5,000 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag I, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,375,000

LOT 43 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 37,829 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag I, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 14,034,000

LOT 44 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,500 sqm.
Magbanua corner Lacorte Sts. Kalawag I, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 912,000

LOT 45 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,602 sqm.
Magbanua cor. Lassise Sts. Pob., Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 3,378,000

LOT 46 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 983 sqm.
Nat'l Highway (Surallah-Cotabato), Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,840,000

LOT 47 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 264 sqm.
Kalawag III Road, Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 2,365,000

LOT 48 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,750 sqm.
National Road (going to Bagumbayan), Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 1,770,000

LOT 49 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 93,319 sqm.
Lot 3-B Farm Road, Brgy. Upper Katungal, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price 5,229,000

LOT 50 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 7,414 sqm.
Brgy. Road, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 7,810,000

LOT 51 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 9,069 sqm.
Nat'l Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 5,650,000

LOT 52 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 23,131 sqm.
National Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 20,100,000

LOT 53 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 745 sqm.
Paredes St., Zone 1, Poblacion, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price 2,235,000

TACLOBAN

LOT 54 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 156 + 150 + 145 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk.1, Lot 5 Blk 1 and Lot 3 Blk. 1, Don Vicente, V & G Subd. Caibaan
Minimum Bid Price 1,974,000

LOT 55 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 359 sqm.
Lot 423-A Rizal Ave. Ext
Minimum Bid Price 1,131,000

ZAMBOANGA

LOT 56 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,500 sqm.
Floor Area 419 sqm.
Brgy. Road, Brgy. Tumaga
Minimum Bid Price 2,761,000

LOT 57 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 326 sqm.
National Road, Brgy. San Jose Gusu
Minimum Bid Price 3,593,000

LOT 58 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Floor Area 709 sqm.
Canelar Moret Rd., Montezuma Heights Subd., Brgy. Canelar
Minimum Bid Price 3,520,000

LOT 59 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 298 + 773 sqm
Valderosa St., City Proper
Minimum Bid Price 27,336,000

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SUSANNE Y. SANTOS was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 64, Page No. 14, Book No. XXI, Series of 2007 under Notary Public Ephraim L. Arcilla of Makati. (Nov.25,Dec.2&9,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILA C. ANDAYA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #212 Page # 43 Book # XXXVI Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Ryan Espinosa of Makati City.(PDI-Nov.18,25&Dec.2,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Marcial N. Moral was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 214 Page No. 43 Book No. LIV Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Manguiat of Quezon City (PDI-Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-December 10, 2007
All unredeemed articles from July 1-31, 2007
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of EVELINA M. BOONGALING executed declaration of heirship with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 11035 Page No. 032 Book No. XVIII Series 2007 of Notary Public Godofredo N. Trajano of Batangas Province. (PDI -Nov 11,18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses Generoso del Rosario and Rufina Cacha del Rosario was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 829 Page 166 Book X Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty Milagros Raminfrancia of Quezon City. PDI-Nov. 25, Dec 2 & 9, 2007

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CARMEN M. PEREZ HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC #59 PAGE #13, BOOK # I-H, SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JIMMY D. LACEBAL OF MANDA LUYONG CITY. (PDI- Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SUSANNE Y. SANTOS was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 64, Page No. 14, Book No. XXI, Series of 2007 under Notary Public Ephraim L. Arcilla of Makati. (Nov.25,Dec.2&9,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILA C. ANDAYA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #212 Page # 43 Book # XXXVI Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Ryan Espinosa of Makati City.(PDI-Nov.18,25&Dec.2,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Marcial N. Moral was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 214 Page No. 43 Book No. LIV Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Manguiat of Quezon City (PDI-Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

E-Telecare International, Inc. Stock Cert No. 001691 for 80 shares in the name of JOSE L. CUISIA JR. was lost.If no contest received new cert will be issued.

INVITATION TO BID

The Rule of Law Effectiveness (ROLE), a USAID funded project, invites interested parties to bid for the conduct of the following activities in connection with its technical assistance to the Supreme Court.

1. Conduct an inventory of all cases (pending and decided) in the Supreme Court
2. Based on the inventory, encode in an electronic database all case events of pending or open cases in the Supreme Court
3. Conduct a review of the case (business) processing system in the Supreme Court and propose measures to improve it
4. Develop and write an application software to automate the case management information system of the Supreme Court

Interested parties are invited to obtain a copy of the detailed Request for Proposals from the ROLE office listed below. Bids, with information on company profile, must be submitted not later than December 19, 2007 to:

RULE OF LAW EFFECTIVENESS (ROLE) PROJECT
Unit 3004, 30th Floor 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero cor Sedeno Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
PHILIPPINES
Tel No. 729-0575 to 78

(PDI--Nov. 25, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOSS STOCK CERT. No.4498 1,056 shares. Name: Raymond Silverio and/or Philippine Racing Club, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that Rural Bank of Mabitac,Stock Certificates Nos. 19,20,60,160,092,130 issued to ELIAS POBLETE reportedly lost If no contest is received New Certificates will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 11,18 & 25'07)

BIDDING

INVITATION TO BID
01 HONDA ACCORD VTi-475T
Pls Call 860-3333 loc.7025
Deadline: Dec. 3, 2007

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bank T.D. 20% 5yrs. 4338659

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

Attractive Restaurant space Ready to Operate Call 4539043 / 09228895662 QC Area

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30 yrs old below willing to work in Pque; Excellent in oral and written comm. skill; Proficient in MS Office; Knowledge in MAC apple; Preferably Exp. in Admin. / Secretarial. Email application w/ cover letter and picture at: multisphere@pldtdsl.net

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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OPTHOMETRIST Mla Cavite Pls Call Rose 6876160

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OPTOMETRIST Tel. 9340035

AGAPITO O. MELLIZA

Retiree of Distribution-Iloilo Depot
United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 21, 2007 at the age of 59.

His body lies in state at Phase 6-A Blk 8, Lot 9 Brgy. Handumanan, Bacolod City.

Interment to be announced later.

FR. ALBERT R. RICARD, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, 24 November 2007.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C. Daily Mass at 8:00 P.M.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, 27 November in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

In loving memory of our dearly beloved

MARGARITA L. GEMPERLE

(†November 27, 1996)
especially on her 11th death anniversary

Holy Mass will be offered on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 in the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church ..	..... 6:15 AM, 7:00 AM,
Magallanes Village, Makati City	12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	..... 6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Church ..	... 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM,
Pasay Road, Makati City	& 12:15 NN
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati City ..	..7:15 AM, 12:15 NN & 5:45 PM
St. James Parish Church, Ayala Alabang	... 6:20 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang .	..... 6:00 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish ...	... 6:00 AM, 6:45 AM
BF Homes, Parañaque City	7:00 PM
Parish Church of the Resurrection ...	.. 6:15 AM, 6:30 PM
BF Homes, Parañaque City	
St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Tambo, Parañaque ..	.... 6:30 AM
St. Joseph (Bamboo Organ) Church, Las Piñas	..... 6:00 AM
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Parañaque	.. 6:15 AM & 6:00 PM
Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life. .	5:30 PM
Pope John Paul II Youth Center	
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, FB Harrison, Pasay .	.. 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila ...	.. 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church	.. 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. .	.. 6:45 AM
Redemptorist Church, Baclaran	

We, her family sincerely thank our relatives, friends and readers for kindly remembering her in prayer.

ROMULO ROLDAN GOMEZ

peacefully joined his Creator on Nov. 24, 2007.

His bereaved wife **Linda**, children **Mollyn, Maita** and **Isidro (Ding) Lim**, grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Claret Chapel of the Immaculate of Mary, Mahinhin cor. Mayumi Sts., U.P. Village, Diliman, Q.C.

Interment will be announced later.

EDUARDO PURIFICACION VILLANUEVA

Past Pres., Holy Name Society
Immaculate Conception Parish Unit
Dasmariñas, Cavite

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 22, 2007 at the Medical Center, Manila at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Carmelita Jardiniano Villanueva** and children **Capt. Marvin** and **Florinda dela Cuesta, Edralin** and **Anastacio B. Mendoza, Eduardo** and **Cristina Tibayan**, and **Leah** and grandchildren; sisters **Concepcion V. Narvaez** and **Aurea**, and brother **Judge Candido P. Villanueva (Ret)** and **Amelia Tongol**, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 75 San Agustin 2, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at the Sacred Heart Memorial Garden after the 3:00 P.M. Funeral Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Death Notice

DR. JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007

His body lies at Chapel Gumamela, 3F Sanctuarium, Aranetа Ave., Quezon City. Viewing is on Nov. 23 to 26. There will be an 8 p.m Mass on Nov. 23; 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24; and 5 p.m. on Nov. 25.

Interment will be on Nov. 27, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Tacloban City
Telephone Nos.: 523-9861; 325-5108 (telefax)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College (UPVTC) invites eligible suppliers or distributors with at least two (2) years actual business operation to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply of the following with their specifications:

30 units Desktop computers	
Processor/CPU	Intel Pentium E2140 dual core, 1.66Ghz, 800Mhs
Motherboard	ECS with audio, video and LAN
Memory	Kingston 2048 MB DDR2 PC-533
VGA	Integrated video graphics
DVD Drive	Samsung DVD-ROM
HDD	80 GB Seagate 7200 Serial ATA
Audio	Integrated audio
LAN	10/100 Mbps integrated LAN
USB ports	Front and back
Others	1.44MB FDD, PS/2 keyboard, PS/2 optical mouse
Monitor	AOC 15" LCD monitor
UPS	APC-USAES UPS 500VA, black
Free	AVR and mouse pad
28 pcs. licenses - Windows Vista Academic Edition with media kit (paper license)	
Operating system	Windows Vista Academic Edition with media kit
Application Software	MS Office 2007 Academic Edition with media kit
28 pcs. licenses - MS Office 2007 Academic Edition with media kit (paper license)	
3-units	**Linksys Ethernet 24 ports 10/100 Mbps**
2-boxes	**UTP CAT 5e cable**
100-pcs.	**RJ-45 connectors**
1-unit	**Laserjet printer 1022**
1-unit	**Laptop Computer, 4710Z-2A 1G08**
Processor/CPU	Intel® Pentium® Dual core processor T2080 (1.73Ghz, 1MB L2 cache 533Mhz FSB)
	Mobile Intel® 943GML express chipset built-in InviLink wireless LAN (802.11b/g)
Memory	1GB DDR2 533 Mhz memory
VGA	Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator (GMA950 224MB shared memory)
DVD drive	Built-in super multi double layer drive
HDD	80 GB SATA HDD
Audio	Built-in Dolby® Digital Surround Sound (DLNA Certified)
LANModem	Built-in 10/100/1000 Gigabit LAN/56k Modem
Others	Built-in New Acer CrystalEye Webcam supporting Acer Primal lite technology
	Built-in 5 in 1 card reader 4x USB, VGA port, express card slot
Monitor	14.1" WXGA TFT CrystalBrite LCD (1280x800 pixel resolution)
Others	USB optical mouse and mouse pad
Software	MS Windows Vista operating system

The approved budget for the contract is One Million Two Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Pesos (P1,279,000.00). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting November 28, 2007 to December 11, 2007 from the BAC Secretariat, Supply and Property Services Office, UPV Tacloban College upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000). For additional information contact the Secretariat at telephone number 325-2270.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 12, 2007 at the UPVTC Dean's Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat at the UPVTC Dean's Conference Room at or before 2:00 p.m., January 04, 2008. Late bids shall not be accepted. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the BAC Secretariat and of the Bids and Awards Committee, either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) AMY JOAN E. EXCONDE
Chair, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – November 25, 2007)

sbma

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF WEBSITES FOR SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA) AND SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT)

Cognizant to the fact that the Internet/Web has become a strategic tool in business, the SBMA needs to tap and maximize the use of this resource in the achievement of organizational objectives. Both the SBMA website and separate SBIA website shall be used as a new marketing channel to support promotional efforts to attract local and foreign investors and tourists inside the Freeport and provide easy access to information that is useful and of interest to them.

1. The ***Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)***, through the project allocated funds from SBMA Corporate Budget for the Fiscal Year 2007 intends to apply the sum of Php 1 Million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Design and Re-development of Websites for Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Subic Bay International Airport. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The ***Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)***, now calls for the submission of ***Letters of Intent (LOI's)*** from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for *Consultancy Services for the Design and Re-development of Websites for Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Subic Bay International Airport.* Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before ***November 29, 2007*** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to:

   Atty. Ferdinand L. Hernandez
   BAC Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o Management Information Systems Office
   Building N, Quezon Street
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's submitted eligibility statements against a checklist of requirements using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid (IAEB), and shall be determined as either "eligible" or "ineligible." The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on ***December 7, 2007*** up to ***5:00 p.m.*** only at the abovementioned office address.

   The Procuring Entity's BAC will open the envelopes containing the Eligibility Documents in the presence of the prospective Bidders authorized representative(s) who choose to attend on ***December 10, 2007*** starting at ***9:00 a.m.*** at Engineering Conference Room, 2nd Floor Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted ***Letter of Intent (LOI)*** and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the short list. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   - Experience of Consultant(s), Qualification and Number of personnel and current workload.
   - The evaluation procedure to be adopted is Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE).
   - The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Bid documents will be available only to short listed bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from *Management Information Systems Office* at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   Management Information Systems Office
   Bldg. N, Quezon Street
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone
   (047) 252-4490
6. The contract shall be completed *within sixty (60) days or two (2) months* from receipt of *Notice of Award (NOA)* and *Notice to Proceed (NTP)*.
7. The ***Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority*** reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

"NEW ZEALAND NEEDS YOU!!!"

CALLING ALL REGISTERED NURSES, PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES PEOPLE...

Due to the severe long- and short-term skill shortages in New Zealand, MRS. CECILLE CHARNLEY, Managing Director of PHIL-NZ HUMAN RESOURCES LIMITED, cordially invites ALL REGISTERED NURSES, PROFESSIONALS AND TRADES PEOPLE to attend one of her seminars on how to gain legal entry into New Zealand through the New Zealand Immigration Service's Skilled Migrant Category scheme. Suitably qualified applicants whose profession or trade is currently listed in the Skill Shortage List can gain Work to Residence Visas/Permits to enter New Zealand, upon which they can apply for Permanent Residency and ultimately New Zealand Citizenship. Private consultation with assessment of documents and points eligibility will also be available after the seminar or by appointment.

THE FULL LISTING OF ALL THE PROFESSIONS AND TRADES NEEDED IN NEW ZEALAND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE DURING THE SEMINAR.

FINANCE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO SUITABLE, HIGHLY QUALIFIED, SELECTED APPLICANTS.

MAKATI SEMINARS: Date : Saturday, 01 Dec. 2007 (Meeting Rooms 1 & 2) OR Sunday, 02 Dec. 2007 (Meeting Rooms 3 & 4)
Time : 1:30pm to 5 pm
Venue : Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

(YOU ONLY NEED TO ATTEND 1 SEMINAR. CHOOSE WHICH DATE, PLS.)

CEBU SEMINARS: Date : Sunday, 09 Dec. 2007
Time : 8:30am to 12nn OR 1:30pm to 5pm
Venue : Diamond Lane 2 Room, The Parklane Cebu Hotel, Cnr. Archbishop Reyes Ave. & Escario St., Cebu City

(YOU ONLY NEED TO ATTEND 1 SEMINAR. CHOOSE WHICH TIME, PLS.)

COST: Php1,000 for singles, PhP1,800 for couples (Seminar Only)
PhP2,000 for singles, PhP2,800 for couples (Seminar + Private Consultation)

*******REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE SEMINAR*******

ENTRY IS STRICTLY BY REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. EARLY BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED AS SEATS ARE LIMITED TO ONLY 50 PEOPLE PER SEMINAR. (EARLIER SEMINARS HELD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POPULAR & SOLD OUT!)

For booking and payment details, please call MRS. CECILLE CHARNLEY on 0918-361-5005 or MIKE on 0928-796-6592. NO TEXT MESSAGES, PLEASE.

PHIL-NZ HUMAN RESOURCES LIMITED is a duly-registered company in the New Zealand Register of Companies with GST Registration #96-876-199. We work with, not for, the New Zealand Immigration Service to provide Immigration Consultancy and Bridging Advice.

WE ARE NOT A PLACEMENT OR RECRUITMENT COMPANY OR AGENCY.
"Walang lokohan para maganda ang samahan....."

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

for the following contract of services:

Name of Project	Approved Budget for Contract	Start of Purchase of Bid Document	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening	Bid Fee
1 Indoor Janitorial Services for all CCP owned Buildings	P 6,340,392.96	November 29, 2007	December 07, 2007 1:30 PM	December 21, 2007 1:30 PM	P 3,000.00
2. Engineering Maintenance Services for all CCP Buildings	P 6,928,324.92	November 29, 2007	December 07, 2007 3:00 PM	December 21, 2007 3:00 PM	P 3,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contracts shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below and on the dates indicated.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non- refundable bid fee in the amount(s) indicated. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the CCP BAC Secretariat on or before the scheduled deadlines. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on the dates indicated. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives. The award of the projects shall be based on the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid received from the Bidders

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667/632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website. www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ARIEL S.R. YONZON
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 25, 2007)

NREA year-end assembly

THE NATIONAL REAL ESTATE Association Inc (NREA) will induct its new set of officers on Dec. 11, with Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri invited as guest of honor and speaker.

Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA president, said that the triple event also includes NREA's traditional Christmas celebration, and its annual awarding of its best performing officers and members.

The occasion will be held starting 6 p.m. at the Zobel Hall of Makati Sports Club, L. P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, and is chaired by Lawyer Gilda C. Lim, NREA exec. vice president, with Jesse Rebustillo, Roger Aguiling, Marissa del Mar, Gemma Piedad, Zeny Simon and Jun Gultiano, as members.

Sen. Zubiri, who heads the Senate Committee on Housing and Urban Development, will also report on proposed housing-related legislations.

Among this year's outstanding awardees for their exemplary work are Gilda C. Lim, Abundio C. Gultiano, Reynaldo O. Munsayac, Emely S. Medina, Lucia V. Ferrer, Bansan C. Choa, Sonia Evalle-Ama, Marissa del Mar and Manuel M. dela Cruz.

Cebu Chapter won the Best Chapter Award and Zeny Simon of Baguio-CAR chapter is Best Chapter President.

For more info, contact the Secretariat at tel. nos. 912-3492 and 913-4463.

St. Cecilia's concert on Nov. 25

THE ST. CECILIA'S CONCERT ON Nov. 25 at 5 p.m., at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto, Manila, will feature interesting music works, unique piano and violin ensembles, twelve pianists, four violinists, the Predis children—all in celebration of 100 Years of Music! This concert is the culminating event of the Centennial year.

Four violinists, Dina Salonga, Sara Gonzales, Denise Huang and Gina Medina, will perform Vivaldi's Concerto No. 1 in D major, RV 549 and Concerto No. 4 in E minor, RV 550, for four violins and strings.

Pianists Mary Anne Espina, Zenas Lozada, Rosemarie dela Paz and Anamaria de Guzman, will keep alive the popular "Saranggola ni Pepe," by N. Gallardo, and "Pamulinawen," by R. Cayabyab in four pianos.

The "Fantasy on Themes" from Carmen, by Bizet-Wilburg, will be performed by Jane Banta, Marianne Fajardo, Carmen Padilla and Della Besa, in a spirited rendition.

The well-known "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2," by Liszt will be played by Marianne Fajardo, Carmen Padilla, Cristina Bichara and Mary Ann Armovit.

The finale will be George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue," for four pianos and orchestra with artists: Della Besa, Mary Anne Espina, Anamaria de Guzman and Greg Zuñiga. Jeoffrey Solares will conduct the Manila Symphony Orchestra. For ticket inquiries: 526-8080.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Fortinet positioned in the enterprise firewall leaders quadrant

PIONEER AND LEADING PROVIDER OF UNIfied threat management (UTM) solutions, Fortinet, announced that it has been positioned by Gartner Inc, in the leaders quadrant of the "Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Network Firewall Magic Quadrant, 2H07" report.

According to the Gartner report, the enterprise network firewall market is driven primarily by the requirement to provide network policy enforcement and intrusion prevention at trust boundary points. Also, as the report's authors state: "There are many viable firewall providers, but the leading vendors provide a path to more inspection and blocking capabilities at higher speeds and at lower price points."

"We consider our placement in the leaders quadrant by Gartner a testament to our success in meeting the unique needs of large enterprises as well as the advanced network firewall capabilities found in our multi-threat security systems," said Ken Xie, founder, president and CEO of Fortinet. "Our innovative, purpose-built platform of integrated security appliances and services provide the proven security, flexibility, scalability and manageability that enterprises require to help protect their networks against increasingly complex threats."

Fortinet's flagship FortiGate family of integrated security appliances deliver comprehensive network and content protection to enterprises and service providers of all sizes through the integration of eight essential security applications and services, including firewall, antivirus, VPN, intrusion prevention (IPS), anti-spam, anti-spyware, Web filtering and traffic shaping. FortiGate systems are kept up to date automatically by Fortinet's FortiGuard subscription services, which provide continuous updates to help protect against the latest viruses, worms, Trojans, and other threats. Specifically designed for large enterprises, MSSPs and teleco carriers, FortiGate-5000 chassis-based security systems are the industry's first security solutions to comply with the Advanced Telecom Computing Architecture (ATCA) standard for next generation carrier grade communications equipment. Mobile operators, telecommunication carriers, service providers and large enterprise customers can configure FortiGate-5000 systems in a variety of ways to offer unmatched performance, reliability, scalability and security.

"In a relatively short amount of time, Fortinet has become a disruptive force in the industry, overtaking vendors larger and smaller," continued Xie. "We remain dedicated to delivering the technology innovation and customer focus that has helped fuel our growth and set us apart from other vendors. There are hundreds of security companies in the market, but only a few designated leaders. We are pleased to be one of the few."

Fortinet products are distributed by MSI-ECS. For more product information, contact Don Adove at 688-3811, e-mail dadove@msi-ecs.com.ph, or visit www.msi-ecs.com.ph.

UNVEILING THE VERANDAS AT SARATOGA HILLS

Belle Corporation, the premier owner-developer of Tagaytay Highlands unraveled another add-on to its roster of world-class communities with the official turn-over ceremony of the Verandas at Saratoga Hills on Nov. 3. Leading the turn-over rites were Belle Corp's vice-chair Willy N. Ocier, director and officer-in-charge Rogelio R. Cabunag, EVP and COO Joselito R. Consunji and Tagaytay Highlands' club president Jerry C. Tiu and general manager Mabel M. Martinez. The event was completed by the attendance of the homeowners who are equally excited with the rise of their very own breathing space within the Greenlands Community. The Verandas at Saratoga Hills is an American South inspired home with lot sizes ranging form 335 to 740 square meters. It is designed to have ample building setbacks required for the exclusive use of verandas and porches. The Verandas allows homeowners easy access to the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Clubs and will soon be just a stone's throw away from the second 9-hole addition to the Tagaytay Midlands golf course. The Verandas at Saratoga Hills is exclusive, ready for residential construction and comes with a golf share, at no extra cost! Shown during the event are (from left): Jose R. Consunji; vice-chair Willy N. Ocier; Verandas Homeowner Peter Aventajado; club president Jerry C. Tiu; Verandas homeowner Gerardo Teotico; Verandas homeowner Nathaniel Syfu; director and officer-in-charge Rogelio R. Cabunag.

MAYBANK 'BUSINESS SOLUTIONS' LAUNCHED

Maybank Philippines formally launched its 'Business Solutions', a suite of of Cash Management Services, in cocktails attended by top clients, select guests and key bank officers. 'Maybank Business Solutions' is primarily aimed for corporations and SMEs to ease administrative tasks associated mostly with payroll processing, repetitive cash and check management routines and payment of bills for clients. The suite of Cash Management Services include the Payroll Manager, Payroll Manager Plus, Payroll Master, Cash Collect, Check Manager, Check Warehousing and Bills Payment. The event highlighted by an interactive, live display of the functions of 'Maybank Business Solutions' showing potential users how these host of Cash Management Services provide simple answers to everyday business hassles. The interactive session was also meant for clients to experience the products' efficiency and innovation; and more importantly, how it can help the user focus more on making their business grow instead of spending too much time on administrative routines. Discovery Suites was the preferred venue of the Maybank CMS Formal Launch. Shown from left: Mia Joaquin, director for finance of the Discovery Suites; Vicky Yee, branch head for Maybank Ortigas; and Jojo Castillo, CMS head for Maybank.

Vincentian Center for Social Responsibilty at Adamson University

"IT'S A GREAT IDEA WHOSE time has come," thus Vice President Noli de Castro enthused about the Vincentian Center for Social Responsibility (VCSR) and praised the fact that its chosen advocacy is related to housing and urban development.

As Guest of Honor during the launching of the VCSR at the Adamson University Theater last Sept. 27, the Vice President was in a way reciprocating the host, his friend Fr. Atilano "Nonong" Fajardo, C.M. In the past, they worked hand-in-hand in the North and South Rail relocation project, the former in his capacity as Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the latter as Deputy Director of Philippine Action for Community Shelter-led Initiatives (PACSI). Both worked out the orderly relocation of railway slum dwellers, in the process earning for Fr. Nonong the moniker "Fr. Riles."

Vice President Noli de Castro still heads the HUDCC,and Fr. Nonong is now the Director of Adamson University's Integrated Community Extension Services (ICES)-the school's outreach arm and coordinator for the Archdiocese Housing Ministry. The VCSR is the brainchild of the new director, part of his efforts at making the ICES more participative by tapping Adamson University's institutional, academic, professional, student, and technological resources. VCSR intends to engage Adamson's academic community not only in the Barangay-level outreach activities, but more deeply and directly in the broader idea of nation-building. Eventually, this groundbreaking initiative will include other schools, especially those under the South Manila Inter-Institutional Consortium (SMIIC) of which Adamson University is an active member. And this early, Fr. Nonong is already toying with the idea of harnessing the whole country's academic community in the future, believing that the academic sector can be a potent force capable of effecting a sea change as far as eradicating poverty and building a better nation are concerned. With this, Vice President de Castro totally agrees, as he stressed in his speech that the purpose of an educational institution is not just to train future professionals or just teach specific knowledge and skills. "Education," in his firm opinion, is about molding better people and contributing to building a better world.

For a start, the VCSR has 35 volunteers rising up to the challenge, coming from Adamson University's pool of faculty and employees. During the launch, they were presented onstage and took a Pledge of Commitment. In a few weeks, they will buckle down to work at the pilot site located in Cabuyao, Laguna. More concretely, the first batch of volunteers will start with community organization, moral and value formation programs, financial capital build-up through micro financing, manufacturing, marketing and branding of community-based products.

Also present at the VCSR launching was Mr. Tony Meloto, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee, now a byword in housing and community building for the poor. He delivered a compelling message of transcending narrow interests in favor of helping the underprivileged permanently rise above their status. From the government sector there was Mr. Federico Laxa, the General Manager of the National Housing Authority, his presence and that of the Vice President's an assurance of government's concern for what is generally seen as a multi-sectoral undertaking. The Congregation of the Mission or the Vincentians, which runs Adamson University, was represented by its Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Bienvenido Disu, C.M. Since its founding in 1625, the C.M.'s mission continues to be the evangelization of the poor.

With the VCSR and the important personages gracing the ceremonies, the relocatees present during the affair have something tangible to look forward to.

ProductFiles

Spread the glow and sparkle of holiday cheer

EACH YEAR, HANDS ON MANILA Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides flexible volunteer opportunities for community service in Metro Manila, embarks on a fundraising project to generate funds for its year-round volunteer programs and service projects. This year's holiday fund raiser is a festively packaged CD of classic Christmas songs. In partnership with Viva records, holiday standards such as Handel's Messiah, O Holy Night and Amazing Grace are beautifully performed by artists such as: Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya, Lani Misalucha, the Company, and the UP Singing Ambassadors among others. The Christmas card CD is a perfect corporate giveaway or gift for your business partners and friends at P175. Hands On Manila's volunteer projects benefit streetchildren, orphans, public school students, the aged, differently-abled people, hospital patients, homeless families, the environment and heritage preservation. For more information on Hands On Manila and its Christmas CD card, log on at www.handsonmanila.org.

The next chapter in Cream-O-holism

JACK 'N JILL CREAM-O, THE chocolate cookie expert, begins another chapter in "Cream-O-holism" as it introduces the new Cream-O Chocolate Chip Cookies. Touted as the ultimate chocolate cookie fix for the young and the young at heart, Cream-O's latest addition to its line of quality products fuses rich yummy chips with the classic butter cookie goodness that everyone loves. Ideal as a filling snack, this new offering captures the fun-loving spirit of its growing number of Cream-O enthusiasts, and will definitely appeal to the palate of those who will try it for the first time. So head to the nearest store and get a bite of the new Cream-O Chocolate Chip Cookies, truly a delightful snacking experience.

To clip is hip with Parker

FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST THE longest, and the Parker Contact makes a real bang. The first thing you'll notice is an oversized clip. Not content to stay hidden in your shirt pocket, it begs to be worn and seen, and features a cool twist mechanism on the barrel that adjusts the clip for whatever thickness materials you're clipping. Available in Light Blue, Dark Grey and Light Grey, it has all the cool-factor you'd expect from the hottest and most fashionable brand around. Smooth writing, ergonomic grip for natural and comfortable finger placement, and Quick'n Click refilling system offer everything the Parker name promises – the ultimate writing experience.

Streamline the recruitment process with Profile XT

MOST HIRING DECISIONS ARE made in haste - during the first five minutes of the interview.

These are some of the findings of research gathered by Profiles Asia Pacific, an HR assessment and formation company. "The fact is that most organizations are using antiquated recruitment techniques when it comes to hiring people," said Malcolm J. Pick, president of Profiles Asia Pacific Inc.

"Companies hire on qualifications but fire on fit," said Mr Pick. He added that in the present skills shortage environment, it is very expensive every time a company hires the wrong person not only in pure money terms but in time, stress and disruption to existing staff and customers. Ask any Call Center which typically has a 40-50 percent turnover rate.

He pointed out that most companies use interviews, qualifications and reference checking to assess the candidate. While important, each of these is fallible. For example, a recent study found that 95 percent of college graduates would be willing to make a false statement in their resumes in order to get a job.

"Most HR mangers will have experiences of being impressed at interview and depressed once the candidate joined," said Pick. The online Profile XT incorporates psychometric testing designed to identify the actual abilities, personality and job match of each candidate. It can be completed by the candidate in 50-60 minutes."

"Used in conjunction with interview and qualifications, this vastly improves the hit rate in hiring the right people for the job," he said. "It helps to take the subjective gut-feel and guess work out of hiring."

"Research shows that selecting people on the basis of interview alone is only about 14 percent effective in identifying those who will able to do the job and will be retainable. The addition of reference checking brings this up to 25 percent. However, the further additional use of a tool like The Profile XT, which matches people to jobs, brings this figure up to a more substantial 75 percent."

The Profile XT is an evaluation instrument designed to measure general abilities, interest/motivation and personality. By bringing the product online for the first time, Profiles is reducing the administration element and streamlining the recruitment process for hard-pressed HR managers and hirers. As many Philippine employers begin to look for staff to fulfil the vast "outsourcing" market, the online Profile can also save money by assessing in advance whether it is worth giving time to a candidate in an interview.

The Profile is designed to answer four critical questions. Can the person do the job? Will the person do the job? Does the person have the personality to enjoy the job? Does the individual fit the job?

Profiles Asia Pacific assessment technologies have assessed more than 250,000 people in the Philippines, from students to entry-level to executive positions. The Profile is affordable and is suitable for organizations of all sizes. Further information is available at www.profilesasiapacific.com, by e-mail at info@profilesasiapacific.com or by calling (02)637-8770.

Qatar Airways unveils European expansion during winter 2007/08 schedules

QATAR AIRWAYS HAS UNVEILED ITS NEW winter 2007/08 schedules with additional European capacity being the highlight of the airline's expansion plans. The recently-introduced Doha-Geneva route has been upgraded with an additional flight taking capacity up to five services a week. Qatar Airways' New York (Newark) service, operated via Geneva, also sees its capacity increase to five flights a week.

Launched this summer, the Doha-Geneva-New York route has proved extremely popular with business and leisure travellers from Qatar, neighbouring GCC countries and feeder markets across the Indian subcontinent. Effective Nov. 27, the airline will launch four flights a week non-stop from Doha to the Swedish capital Stockholm, making the airline the first from the Gulf region to serve Scandinavia.

Aircraft on the Moscow and Berlin routes will be upgraded from the Airbus A300, which are gradually being phased out of Qatar Airways' fleet, to the state-of-the-art two-class Airbus A330s offering slightly more seating capacity. The changes on the Moscow route, operated daily, become effective from Jan. 12, while the four-a-week Berlin flights will switch to the A330s in mid-February. The A330s provide passengers in every seat with their own individual interactive audio and video inflight entertainment system enabling them to have total control of their programming - watching and listening at the time of their choice.

Elsewhere, an extra flight now operates on the Doha-Seoul route, via Osaka, taking capacity up to five services a week. And frequency frequency on the Doha-Muscat route has been increased from 14 to 15 flights-a-week. The Doha-Bahrain route gets three extra services, taking capacity up to 40 flights-a-week, beginning February 1 next year. Qatar Airways is also planning to launch its second 2007 winter route on Dec. 12, with daily non-stop flights to Ahmedabad in the western Indian state of Gujarat, taking the airline's capacity to India up to 51 flights a week across eight cities.

Qatar Airways chief executive officer Akbar Al Baker said the airline was continuing its aggressive expansion in a year that has already seen it launch nine destinations worldwide. "We are committed to delivering the best possible levels of service to our passengers through our wonderful inflight product, additional frequency and new routes," said Al Baker. "2007 has been a fantastic year for Qatar Airways and we look forward to consolidating our position as an airline of strength and successfully meet the demands of passengers who today are looking for more flights and more choice. "Our new Geneva and New York services have proved extremely popular in just four months since their launch and demand has necessitated us to increase capacity to these destinations this winter."

Qatar Airways currently operates a modern fleet of 58 all-Airbus aircraft to 79 destinations across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Far East, Indian subcontinent and North America. The highlight of this year's expansion has been the launch of flights to New York (Newark) and Washington DC - the airline's first move into the North American market.

With a growing international network, more travellers have an opportunity to use Qatar Airways' Premium Terminal at Doha International Airport, exclusively for departing First and Business Class passengers.

The Premium Terminal features facilities including a spa, jacuzzi, exclusive duty free shopping, business centre and fine dining restaurants. Built in just nine months, the US$90 million terminal is the world's first commercial passenger building dedicated to First and Business Class passengers and offers departing and transit passengers an excellent opportunity to relax and unwind prior to their flight.

Our prospective principal in Australia,

SACAREN MINERAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

urgently needs the following:

❑ (1) GENERAL MANAGER OPERATIONS / SENIOR MINE ENGINEER

- Sacaren Mineral Holdings Limited, an ASX listed company, is progressing its definite feasibility study ("DFS") into the commencement of gold mining operations, located at South Laverton approximately 120 km. north east of Kalgoorlie. The company owns a modern 2.4 mtpa milling facility, associated infrastructure and is currently undertaking regional exploration.
- We are currently seeking a GM (Operations)/ Senior Mining Engineer with extensive experience in open pit gold mining, feasibility studies, Large-scale project management and contract negotiation. Suitable qualifications, expertise in mining software and methodologies are essential.

Key Responsibilities include:

- Managing the DFS, bringing the project to final decision status,
- Overseeing production start-up and managing all the company's pre-development and mining operations.
- Assisting the managing Director in assessing new acquisition opportunities.
- Based in Perth, this position has outstanding long term potential.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ (3) EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Sacaren Mineral Holdings is a dynamic gold exploration company which last year purchased a large tenement holding and the Carosue gold treatment plant and mining camp, situated to north east of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Sacaren is completing a feasibility study, based on several previously mined and un-mined gold deposits. It is also carrying out "grass roots" exploration on highly prospective tenement holding with a view to re-commencing gold mining as soon as possible.

Gold mining ceased two years ago, with the Carosue gold treatment plant placed on care and maintenance at that time. Sacaren has recently purchased additional tenements and gold deposits at Wallbrook, near Carosue, and is in the process of adding these to the feasibility study and exploration budget.

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects of field of exploration with the support of the Sacaren Team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of flied equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ (3) SENIOR EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

- You will be responsible for researching project area, target generation and supervising the implementation of all aspect of field with the support of the Sacaren team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of flied equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10 AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ (3) FIELD TECHNICIAN

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects field exploration logistics, as well as geochemical sampling, surveying, drill-site technical assistance, and geochemical support duties. This challenging role requires relevant exploration field experience, familiarity with geological concepts enthusiasm for out door work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of field equipment techniques and basic computing packages. You will report to the field supervisor.
- You will be an integral part of a small team. Working with geological staff and external consultants and contractors as required. The Sacaren team approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interest and skills.
- You will be initially based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie.
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ BOILERMAKERS / WELDERS

- A Strong understanding of Occupational Health and Safety Policies and working procedures
- The ability to interpret work instructions and technical drawings common to the trade (3D,Interpretor)
- Demonstrate experience in welding (90%Mig, Arc, & Tig)
- Fabricate products by selecting appropriate equipment tools and methods to methods to maximize productivity.
- Takes measurement and reading using instruments of appropriate accuracy to ensure pre-determined quality standards are achieved.
- A minimum of two years post –trade experience would be ideal
- A background in sheet metal and/or bodybuilding would be ideal in this role.
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

❑ MACHINISTS

- Working in a high volume/repetition environment these role will be set , edit and operate CNC Lathes with Auto Chuck and fitted with One touch IGF-X controllers
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

❑ FITTERS / MECHANICS

- The role will be supporting the manufacture of RC rotary drilling equipment to safely and efficiently produce components and product to pre-determined quality standard.
- The main duties will include maintenance construction and repair of drill rigs. Imperative to this role is to safely maintain service and provide technical support to the manufacture of drill rigs and ancillary equipment.
- To ensure safe and efficient utilization of resources. This will include the completion of maintenance records, logs and documentation as required ensuring statutory requirements are maintained for respective equipment. Work will be carried out in a workshop environment and (on the rare occasion) may require remote field locations for a period of time (as mutually agreed)
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during the interview. Interested applicants may email their detailed resume to rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com or fax to (632) 9520531

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Save the Children

Save the Children US is a non-government organization and one of the leading international development organizations in the world. The mission of Save the Children is to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents. Save the Children is a non-political non-religious international organization that prides itself in independence and neutrality.

SC PhCO focuses on four priority results: 1) Children are protected from harm through physical and psychosocial assistance; 2) Children learn and develop with age-appropriate care and education; 3) Children are healthy and well-nourished, and 4) Children thrive in food secure and economically viable households. Save the Children Philippines Country Office (SC PhCO) has been operating in the Philippines for over 25 years with programs with the aim of providing child-focused programs in the sectors of Education, Health and Nutrition, Emergencies and Crisis. SC PhCO sponsorship program offices are in West Visayas (Region VI – Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras), Metro Manila (Parañaque, Taguig and Las Piñas) and South Central Mindanao through the recently opened office initially covering South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and eventually expanding to Saranggani. In addition, SC PhCO is engaged in various grant-funded projects in the country including Bicol, Leyte, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Region XII.

Save the Children is accepting applications for

Health Manager
(Code: HM)

A senior position reporting to the Deputy Country Director for Program Development and Support of the Philippines Country Office, to manage one of three sectors - Health. The Health Manager is responsible for providing overall direction to the health efforts of the Philippine Country Office and leads a team of sector coordinators, specialists, and consultants under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). The Health Manager liaises between Save the Children and its partner agencies for health initiatives and also provides technical assistance to these partner agencies. The Health Manager provides direction to resource generation in this sector and coordinates efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

Key responsibilities:
1. Provide technical direction and inputs for programming and decision-making on the Health sector
2. Prepare and see through successful awarding of project proposals to funding agencies or other Save the Children offices,
3. Provide technical support and direction for the Health sector specialists in various program areas; promote synergy and collaboration in program design and implementation efforts on grants and sponsorships of the organization
4. Champion replicability and scalability of successful Save the Children prototypes and initiatives; document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, education and training, and technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups

Geographical Coverage: Based in Metro Manila; will require regular travel to program areas in South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Competencies: Strong leadership and management skills; Previous relevant experience in an international NGO preferred; Doctor of Medicine or Bachelor's degree in related discipline, masteral degree or its equivalent an advantage; Ten or more years program development experience; Demonstrated training and research skills; Demonstrated effective and fluent written, oral and presentation communication in English ; Computer literacy; Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus. Save the Children builds on the following competencies: Developing others; Relationship building; Collaboration, Teamwork, Ability to influence others, Self-management; Innovation, Problem-solving, Judgment, and Initiative

Grants Management Accountant
(Code: GMA)

Key Areas of Responsibility
Accountant for all grants projects; reviews financial record maintenance and reporting according to donor requirements and Memorandum of Agreements; provides technical support and training to field offices as required; supports proposal and development efforts, set up and monitoring of grants and contracts

Competencies and Qualification Requirements: (in addition to Core Competencies)
- Concern for accuracy; Respect for confidentiality; Time management; Accounting; Analytical skills, Basic computer skills, budgeting, Forecasting, Compliance
- Audit exposure preferred

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation.

Send resumes on or before Monday, December 10, 2007 but applications sent earlier will be appreciated.
By email: HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org (please indicate respective position code)
By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc.
(if in MetroManila) No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila

Judge Juan Luna HS '73 alumni Christmas party held

JUDGE JUAN LUNA High School Batch 73 will hold an alumni Christmas reunion party on Dec. 8 at Judge Juan Luna High School audio visual room. The event is set to relive the wonderful high school memories and experiences through a special Christmas festivity, which features activities aimed at fostering camaraderie and recollection of forged friendships on campus.

Join and participate in this blissful and meaningful occasion, reminisce the good old days, and amplify our school spirit to incalculable levels with our former classmates.

For details, contact Josie Santillan Jimenez - 480-5393, 233-2370, 252-5231, CP 0915-3793813, Chito Celestial - 455-6202, CP 0918-4089611, Rudy San Gabriel at 0919-4413140, and Mar Delos Reyes at 890-1185, CP 0917-8032021.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City

November 23, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	JOMARK FOOD CORPORATION B4 L6 Greenbreeze. Langkaan II, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Ms. Chin-Feng Hu/ Taiwanese	Corporate Manager
2.	SOUTHERN SUN HARDWARE & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Nat'l. Highway, Brgy. Bugtong, Lipa City	Mr. Qingsi Hong/ Chinese	Sales Attendant
3.	PHILIPPINE DONG YUN PLATE-MAKING CORPORATION FTP, Punta Altezza, Calamba City	Ms. Dongxia Zhang/ Chinese	Warehouse/ Inventory Staff
4.	GREENFIELD_ASIA CORPORATION Laguna Bel Air 2, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Hoi Kwan Kim/ Korean	Sales Manager
5.	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING CORPORATION CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Jong Tae An/ Korean	R & D Senior Manager
6.	ITABASHI SEIKI PHILS., INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Masayoshi Saeki/ Japanese	QA/QC Adviser
7.	CH GLOBAL TECH., INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Dae Soon Yeon/ Korean	Purchasing Adviser

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–Nov. 25, 2007)

ERRATUM

In the recruitment ad of **Eastgate Manpower Consultants Inc.** published in this paper on **November 24** (National Section) and **November 25** (Job Market Section), the venue should have been omitted from the enumerated positions.

Our apologies.

FOR SALE

Prime commercial property 566 sqm. with FAR of 16x located on Pasong Tamo between Kamagong & Vito Cruz Sts. Please call Marlon Camba or Arlene Martillano at tel. nos. 8546395, 67000502 or 8523526 to 29 loc. 120.

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INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Global Business Power Corporation (GBPC) invites all interested suppliers and contractors engaged in the supply, trade and manufacture of the following to apply for accreditation with GBPC:

- Automotive / Heavy Equipment & Parts
- Chemicals (Laboratory, Preventive & Industrial)
- Electrical
- Laboratory Supplies
- Mechanical
- Mill Supplies / Tools
- Packaging Materials
- Refractory Supplies
- Construction Materials / Industrial / Services
- Controls and Instrumentations
- Fuels / Gases / Lubricants
- Office Supplies
- Paints
- Pipes and Infrastructure Materials
- Rubber Products
- Services (construction, retrofitting, etc.)

Only accredited suppliers and contractors shall be invited to participate in the bidding and/or negotiation of GBPC's requirements for the year. Those currently accredited with GBPC need not apply.

Accreditation Forms and Requirements shall be available for issuance starting November 25, 2007 and deadline for submission of accomplished Accreditation Forms and Requirements shall be on December 20, 2007 at the following offices:

Procurement Office
Panay Power Corporation
Brgy. Ingore, La Paz, Ilo-ilo City
Tel No. (033) 3208775

Procurement Office
Toledo Power Corporation
Sangi, Toledo, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 322-5803-04

Materials Management - Corporate Office
Global Business Power Corp.
Skyland Plaza, GF 2302,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel No. 889-4117

(Sgd.) ELISA L. DAYAO
AVP – Materials Management

(PDI – November 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OR ITS CONCESSIONAIRE FOR APPROVAL OF FORCE MAJEURE EVENT REGULATED FM PASS THROUGH FOR TYPHOONS MILENYO, REMING, SENIANG AND PAENG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRANSMISSION WHEELING RATE GUIDELINES

ERC CASE NO. 2007-148 RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), Applicant.
x----------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on September 26, 2007, the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) filed an application praying for the Commission's approval of its force majeure event regulated FM pass through for typhoons Milenyo, Reming, Seniang, and Paeng, in accordance with the provisions of the Transmission Wheeling Rate Guidelines (TWRG).

In said application, TRANSCO alleged, among others, the following:

1. In May 2003, the Commission promulgated the TWRG for 2003 to around 2027;
2. Under Section 10.1.1, Article X of the TWRG, it is filing the instant application for purposes of seeking the Commission's approval to charge its customers for expenditures it incurred (FM Pass Through Amount) associated with its emergency responses to damages brought by typhoons "Milenyo" (Xangsane), "Paeng" (Cimaron), "Reming" (Durian), and "Seniang" (Utor);
3. From 1950–1984, the high voltage overhead transmission lines (OHTL) of the National Power Corporation (NPC) were designed at 165kph maximum wind velocity or gust wind. In 1985, it was increased to 185 kph;
4. In the latter part of 1988, the 230 kV Naga-Tiwi Line, which was energized in 1978, was heavily damaged by a typhoon with a maximum gust wind of 235 kph. Other transmission lines, which were designed at 165 kph maximum wind velocities, were also damaged. NPC then created a Task Force in 1990 which conducted the Structural Review of Strength of NPC's Steel Towers;
5. The Task Force coordinated with the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA) and considered the maximum gust wind measured from different weather stations throughout the country in the periods 1948-1988. Likewise, the Task Force compared the design criteria adopted in countries also within the typhoon belt, among others;
6. As a result of the study, the application of zoning was recommended. Zone I shall be composed of the entire Luzon and part of the Visayas with the strongest wind pressure (Samar and Leyte Islands) and Zone II shall be the rest of the Visayas, entire Mindanao and Palawan. In the design of steels towers, Zone I shall adopt the 270 kph maximum wind velocities while Zone II shall adopt 240 kph. Likewise, it was recommended that OHTLs designed at 165 kph located in the eastern portion of Luzon shall be strengthened through guying;
7. Beginning 1995, however, the country began experiencing extra strong typhoons that were later called super typhoons, surpassing the 200 kph mark. Due to the increasing intensity and frequency of tropical cyclones brought about by the depletion of the ozone layer, the NPC was prompted to adopt the 270 kph maximum gust wind in designing its OHTL support structures;
8. At present, it continues to adopt the 270 kph design of its OHTLs situated in Zone I and 240 kph maximum wind velocity for Zone II;
9. On September 28, 2006, typhoon "Milenyo" made a big dent on its operation and gave an end to the four year and a half record of all time "black out free" operation of power systems in Luzon. It marked the first system blackout since the fateful Luzon-wide black out of May 21, 2002 and the first devastating typhoon to hit Southern Luzon and Metro Manila since the tragic super typhoon "Rosing" in 1995;
10. Typhoon Milenyo wreaked havoc in the Bicol Region, Metro Manila Area and other parts of Southern Luzon and Leyte-Samar areas, among others, causing severe damage to its transmission, subtransmission and telecommunication facilities. Disaster officials described "Milenyo" as the worst tropical cyclone to directly impact Manila since typhoon "Rosing" 11 years before;
11. On 15 December 2006, it filed a verified Notice of Force Majeure Event as a condition precedent for its claim of FM Pass Through Amount within the period prescribed in the TWRG. Pertinent portions of the said Notice stating the details of the force majeure event and the date of occurrence read:

x x x.

On September 27, 2006, tropical storm Milenyo intensified and became a typhoon, traversing the Bicol Region. As it hit the Bicol area, several TRANSCO 230kV transmission lines[1] were damaged and autotripped in succession.

Around 4 o'clock in the morning of September 28, 2006, the Naga-Tayabas 230 kV lines 1 and 2 autotripped due to the toppling down of towers which resulted to the isolation of the Bicol area from the system. As the typhoon continued to cross Southern Luzon to Metro Manila, TRANSCO's transmission lines[2] in Southern Luzon as well as several generating units[3] autotripped.

As the typhoon reached Metro Manila, TRANSCO's transmission lines and Meralco's distribution lines[4] also autotripped.

At noon of the same day, the TRANSCO-System Operator declared a "Total Loss of Load." Immediate system restoration ensued. As the typhoon slowed down, TRANSCO dispatched its field personnel to patrol the lines that were unsuccessfully re-energized while its line crews conducted repair of identified damaged transmission lines.

Immediately after the typhoon, TRANSCO-Luzon Operation and Maintenance inspected its aftermath and the damage it caused to TRANSCO facilities. Preliminary inspection showed that TRANSCO suffered damages to its transmission, substation and telecommunication facilities. The areas hit by the typhoon are Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Camarines Provinces, Albay, Quezon, including Polilio Island, Burias Island, Romblon, Marinduque, Ticao Island, Oriental Mindoro, Lubang Island in Southern Luzon. Likewise, Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, and Southern Zambales were also heavily affected. The typhoon also caused damage to TRANSCO facilities in the Leyte-Samar areas.

x x x.

12. As a result of the severe damages to power transmission and subtransmission lines of South Luzon, Emergency Restoration Systems (ERS) were used to temporarily restore power to some major substations. Through ERS and the use of unaffected sections of Tayabas-Naga and Kalayaan-Gumaca Lines, Bicol Area was reconnected to Luzon Grid after more than two (2) weeks island operation;
13. Temporary power restoration was made as fast as possible through the assistance of its Aviation Group and line personnel from other regions such as North Luzon as well as Visayas and Mindanao. Also, a Crisis Management Steering Committee was created to review/update its existing contingency plans;
14. After one (1) month, another typhoon entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and brought damages to its 69 kV lines in the northern part of Luzon;
15. Thus, on 26 January 2007, it again filed a verified Notice of Force Majeure Event for typhoon Paeng. The notice states, thus:

x x x.

Around 2 o'clock in the afternoon of October 28, 2007, tropical storm Paeng intensified and became a typhoon. Typhoon Paeng was 120 kilometers (km) east of Casiguran, Aurora and was packing center winds of 195 kph and gusts of up to 230 kph.

As it traversed through Isabela and the Northern part of Luzon, several TRANSCO 69 kV lines were damaged. Attached hereto as "Annexes B and C" is the Typhoon Damage Report and Certification issued by Mr. Guillermo R. Redoblado, Vice President of TRANSCO-Luzon Operation and Maintenance showing the damages incurred by TRANSCO by reason of the said typhoon. TRANSCO incurred damages in the amount of One Million One Hundred Six Thousand Seventy Five Pesos (P1,106,075.00). Immediate repair and restoration of the line were done by its personnel.

x x x.

16. While it is still repairing its damages caused by the two (2) previous typhoons, two (2) other typhoons hit the Southern Luzon on November 28, 2006 ("Reming") and the Panay area and Provinces of Samar and Leyte on December 7, 2006 ("Seniang"):
17. Hence, on 23 February 2007, it filed another verified Notice of Force Majeure Event with the Commission for typhoons "Reming" and "Seniang," thus:

x x x.

On November 28, 2006, tropical storm Reming entered the Philippines' area of responsibility. In two (2) days, Reming intensified and became a super typhoon with center winds of 195 kph. At that time, Reming was approaching Catanduanes. On November 30, 2006 Reming headed towards the heart of the Bicol Region and then to Bondoc Peninsula, Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro.

Reming's intensity caused severe damage to TRANSCO facilities and equipment. Attached as Annexes B, C and D, respectively, are pictures of damages to its antennas and accessories, Estimated Cost of Damage issued by TRANSCO-Luzon System Operations (LSO), and Report on the Cost of Damage issued by its Luzon Operations and Maintenance (O&M). These reports would show the damages to its assets.

On December 7, 2006, another tropical depression entered the Philippines. On the same day, it intensified into a typhoon and was named Seniang. Typhoon Seniang strengthened even more as it crossed the Visayas area and to Cebu, Masbate and Mindoro until it finally exited to South China Sea.

Typhoon Seniang brought damage to its transmission lines and other facilities in the Panay area and Provinces of Samar and Leyte. Attached as Annex F is the Estimated Cost Summary issued by its Visayas O&M including its attachments and as Annex G, the Estimated Cost of Damage issued by its LSO showing the facilities and equipment damaged by the Typhoon.

x x x.

18. As an emergency response to these tropical typhoons to temporarily restore transmission service, it made use of ERS. The ERS are segmented steel structures that could be easily hauled and assembled to enable the transmission of power while TRANSCO and distribution utilities are constructing permanent structures;
19. In view thereof, there arose the need to immediately program capital expenditure projects that will bring back the necessary service and permanently restore the damaged transmission lines. Thus, it implemented infrastructure projects that would replace the ERS with permanent structures;
20. Of the four (4) typhoons, "Milenyo" and "Reming" brought the most damage to its transmission facilities in the Luzon Grid. In particular, the destruction brought by typhoon "Reming" was aggravated by the mudflow unleashed by Mayon Volcano in Albay; destroying electric cooperatives substations systems including load-end substations. The extent of damages on its transmission and subtransmission facilities includes 118 steel towers, 887 wooden/steel poles as well as damages to substation facilities and equipment. Table 1 shows the extent of damages:

Table 1 Number of Structures Damaged by Milenyo and Reming

Transmission Lines	Number of Structures Damaged	
	Milenyo (Xangane)	Reming (Durian)
Tayabas-Naga 500kV	17	56
Kalayaan-Gumaca 230kV	9	4
Gumaca-Labo 230kV	10	32
Bacman-Daraga	3	10
Naga-Tiwi 230kV	3	16
Daraga-San Antonio 230kV		
Naga-San Antonio-Tiwi		
TOTAL STRUCTURES	42	118

Computation of Force Majeure Pass-Through Cost for Typhoons: "Milenyo," "Paeng," Reming," and "Seniang:"

21. This submission for FM Pass-through Amount includes actual expenditures as of May 2007 and program disbursement at years ending 2007 and 2008. Tables 2 and 3 provide for the actual and program expenditures to restore and rehabilitate the transmission facilities damaged by typhoons:

Table 2 Schedule of Capital Expenditures, Real PhP, Mn

TYPHOON	ACTUAL AS OF MAY 2007	ESTIMATED AS OF DEC. 2007	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES IN 2008	TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2007 + 2008
Milenyo	255.598	672.961		672.961
Paeng	.542	.542		.542
Reming	223.595	1,071.376	69.025	1,071.376
Seniang	0	5.498		5.498
TOTAL	479.735	1,750.378	69.025	1,891.403

Table 3 Schedule of Capital Expenditures, Nominal PhP, Mn

TYPHOON	ACTUAL AS OF MAY 2007	ESTIMATED AS OF DEC. 2007	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES IN 2008	TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2007 + 2008
Milenyo	289.592	762.576		672.576
Paeng	.614	.614		.714
Reming	253.333	1,213.869	81.794	1,295.663
Seniang	0	6.230		6.230
TOTAL	543.539	1,983	81.794	1,983.179

22. The nominal values were computed using the inflation factors[5] provided in the Final Determination (dated June 13, 2006) of 1.133 and 1.185 for 2007 and 2008, respectively.
23. The above capital expenditures (CAPEX) exclude all expenditures for subtransmission facilities amounting to P116.298Mn;
24. The costs that it has spent and is programmed to spend as a consequence of the Tropical Typhoons Milenyo, Paeng, Reming and Seniang are additional capital expenditures and none of these scheduled expenditures was included or incorporated in the cost building blocks used in the computation of its regulated revenue for the Second Regulatory Period (2006-2010);
25. It sees that the amount of P1.8Bn (real values) is material and necessary and if not allowed recovery during this regulatory period will put a strain in its capital expenditure budget for the whole Second Regulatory Period and may disrupt its program expenditures that are committed for implementation during this regulatory period;
26. It proposes to recover the return on capital, in terms of its ERC-approved WACC of 15.8739%[6], and the return of capital (depreciation) on the programmed CAPEX;
27. Using the building block approach of determining the annual revenue requirement (ARR), it proposes to pass-through the following as additional network charges in Luzon and in Visayas in CY 2009 to recover the CAPEX that it has actually spent and programmed to spend up to the first quarter of 2008:

Milenyo – in PhP Mn, unless otherwise stated, Nominal

Particulars	2007	2008	2009	2010
Return on Capital	59.801	118,173	115.313	112.453
Return of Capital	114.250	18.016	18.016	18.016
ARR	174.051	136.189		
Forecast MW	81,169.32	84,230.06		
P/kW – Pass Through	2.1443	1.6169		
Forecast GWh	39,005.28	40,499.22		
P/kWh	.0049	.0034		

Paeng – In PhP Mn, unless otherwise stated, Nominal

Particulars	2007	2008	2009	2010
Return on Capital	.048	.095	.094	.092
Return of Capital	.005	.010	.010	.010
ARR	.054	.106		
Forecast MW	81,169.32	84,230.06		
P/kW – Pass Through	0.0007	0.0013		
Forecast GWh	39,005.28	40,499.22		
P/kWh	0.0000	0.0000		

Reming – In PhP Mn, unless otherwise stated, Nominal

Particulars	2007	2008	2009	2010
Return on Capital	95.967	197.192	201.216	198.747
Return of Capital	183.584	15.552	21.612	21.612
ARR	279.552	212.744		
Forecast MW	81,169.32	84,230.06		
P/kW – Pass Through	3.4441	2.5258		
Forecast GWh	39,005.28	40,499.22		
P/kWh	0.0079	0.0053		

Seniang – In PhP Mn, unless otherwise stated, Nominal

Particulars	2007	2008	2009	2010
Return on Capital	.485	.932	.894	.856
Return of Capital	.118	.237	.238	.238
ARR	.603	1.170		
Forecast MW	11,945.02	12,727.37		
P/kW – Pass Through	.0506	0.0919		
Forecast GWh	5,419.71	5,694.8		
P/kWh	0.0001	0.0002		

28. The following assumptions were used in the computation of the ARR:
    a. WACC recovery on only 50% of the 2007 CAPEX and on the rolled forward asset base for the remainder of the regulatory period;
    b. As to the Return on Capital, the depreciation was calculated using the ERC's approved assets lives in the Final Determination for the Second Regulatory Period; and
    c. Depreciation rate of 50% is considered on the 2007 CAPEX, and on the rolled forward asset base for the remainder of the regulatory period.
29. Also, it considered an additional computation for accelerated depreciation of P284Mn on transmission facilities which were damaged by these typhoons in the computation of the ARR. It believes that it should be allowed to recover this amount of foregone depreciation that it would have normally recovered had these transmission facilities not been damaged or destroyed by these typhoons;
30. It takes note of Ergon Energy's pass-through application on 'Severe Tropical Cyclone Larry' with the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA). Ergon Energy is a distribution utility in Australia. The following is an excerpt from Ergon Energy's application wherein it considered the recovery of accelerated depreciation, to wit:

x x x.

"Accelerated depreciation of $7.96 million in 2006-2007, to allow EECL to recover the amount of foregone depreciation that it would have been able to recover if these assets had not been destroyed. There is extensive precedent, and logical argument for the inclusion of an accelerated depreciation amount for EECL's disposed assets. When a regulated business makes prudent capital investment, the business can reasonably expect to recover that investment over time, including earning a market return (WACC). This is the financial capital maintenance concept. This means that over a certain period the NPV of revenue earned from an investment and the NPV of the residual value of the investment should equal the initial investment. If EECL cannot obtain an accelerated depreciation amount of the assets that it was forced to remove before the end of their useful lives, then this test will not be met" (page 10).

x x x.

31. In addition, it also takes note of the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) – Western Australia's Final Decision dated March 2007 on the Proposed Access Arrangement for the Southwest Interconnected Network submitted by Western Power. Specifically, *"the Authority indicated that Western Power may propose how it wishes the redundant assets to be treated for the purposes of determination of the capital base and target revenue. For the purposes of Draft Decision, the Authority applied treatment of redundant assets involving an accelerated depreciation of the assets so that the full amount of any residual regulatory asset value for the relevant assets that are forecast to become redundant is added to depreciation allowance in the year that the assets are taken our of service, and the same value is deducted from the capital base."*;
32. On the ERA's suggestion, Western Power proposed for the accelerated depreciation on its distribution assets that will be decommissioned as a result of the retrospective undergrounding project following Western Australian Government Program. The Final Decision reads that the Authority in March 2007 – is satisfied with the Western Power proposed access arrangement including the adoption of the accelerated depreciation on assets made redundant as a result of the implementation of the State Underground Power Program (pages 122-123 of March 2007 Decision);
33. In accordance with Section 10. 2.1, it computes for the Force Majeure Threshold Amount:

    Formula:

    $FMTA_t$ = 0.02Php/kWh x (CPI_{t-1}/CPI_{2002})
    Where: CPI_{t-1} has the same meaning as in Section 3.3.2 of the TWRG
    CPI_{2002} is the sum of the CPIs for the quarters ending on 31 December 2001, March 2002, June 2002, September 2002.
34. Section 10.2.5 of the TWRG defines CPI_{t-1} and CPI_{2002} to refer to CPI for the quarters ending December, January, March and September. However, given that this Force Majeure application is being made at the time when ending September 2007 CPI is not yet available, it proposes to adjust the CPI factors to quarters ending November, February, May and August. The following values are considered:

3 months Ending	CPI_{t-1}	3 months Ending	CPI_{2002}
Nov 2006	139.9	Nov 2001	108.5
Feb 2007	139.8	Feb 2002	98.0
May 2007	140.4	May 2002	98.5
Aug 2007	142.6	Aug 2002	100.5

35. From the proposed revised CPI factors, the FMTA is computed as P0.02773/kWh;
36. Under the TWRG, the FMTA of P0.02/kWh x (CPI_{t-1}/CPI_{2002}) or in this Application equivalent to P0.02773/kWh is a threshold per force majeure event;
37. Based on the computation in paragraph 16, the Force Majeure event claim for each Typhoon; namely Milenyo, Paeng, Reming and Seniang did not breach the FMTA, Table XX summarizes the FM Event Claim versus FMTA:

Typhoon	In Pesos/kilowatthour equivalent		
	FM Event Claim	FMTA	Remark
LUZON			
Milenyo	0.0078	0.02773	did not breach the FMTA
Paeng	0.0000	0.02773	did not breach the FMTA
Reming	0.0124	0.02773	did not breach the FMTA
VISAYAS			
Seniang	0.1425	0.02773	

38. In summary, TRANSCO proposes to recover the following did not breach the FMTA combined 2007 and 2008 amount in CY 2009 which in their pesos/kilowatt-hour equivalent did not breach the FMTA:

TYPHOON	2007 Pesos/kilowatt	2008 Pesos/kilowatt	Peso/kilowatt (combined 2007 and 2008)
Milenyo	2.1443	1.6169	3.7612
Paeng	0.0007	0.0013	0.0019
Reming	3.4441	2.5258	5.9698
Seniang	0.0506	0.0919	0.1425

39. It is co-assured with the NPC's Industrial All Risk (IAR) insurance policy with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). The IAR includes related module/cover such as the Sabotage & Terrorism and the Submarine Cable. It covers substations, SCADA communication equipment, metering equipment and transmission lines, towers and other support structures within the 1000 meters radius from a power plant perimeter fence. However, there is no insurance cover available in the market for the transmission lines, towers and other support structures beyond the 1000 meters radius from a power plant perimeter fence which are mostly vulnerable to natural catastrophic and manmade losses;
40. As a matter of procedure, it filed an insurance claim with the GSIS on properties damaged by the typhoons covered in this application amounting to PhP9.4Mn for "Milenyo" and PhP65.4Mn for "Reming";
41. However, it does not expect any payment for these claims since these all fall within the deductible levels. Consequently, the amount of insurance claim was not considered in the computation of the FM Pass-through costs;
42. The Force Majeure Event Pass-Through Claim has been presented and approved by its Management Committee last September 18, 2007; and
43. The proposed Force Majeure Event Pass-Through Claim which was designed and developed in accordance with the provisions of the TWRG and its Reset Issues Paper and pertinent ERC Orders sets forth fair and reasonable transmission rates that will serve the public interest and convenience and signals the efficient utilization of transmission facilities that will ultimately redound to the best interest and benefit of the consuming public.

The Commission has set the application for initial hearing and pre-trial conference on the following dates and venue:

DATE	TIME	VENUE	PARTICULARS
December 6, 2007 (Thursday)	Ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.)	ERC Hearing Room, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Jurisdictional hearing, expository presentation and pre-trial conference
December 7, 2007 (Friday)	Ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.)	ERC Hearing Room, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Evidentiary hearing (Reception of evidence and presentation of witnesses)

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable, **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and Honorable Commissioners, **RAUF A. TAN, ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA,** and **JOSE C. REYES,** Energy Regulatory Commission, this 7th day of November, 2007 at Pasig City.

ATTY. NOEL J. SALVANERA
OIC - Legal Service

[1] Bacman-Daraga 230 kV lines 1 and 2; Bacaman-Botong 230 kV line; Bacaman-Cawayan 230 kV line, Gumaca-Kalayaan 230 KV lines 1 and 2; Daraga-Naga 230 kV line, Daraga-Tiwi 230 kV line, Naga-Tiwi 230 kV line 2; Labo-Naga 230 kV lines 1 and 2

[2] Tayabas-Pagbilao 230 kV lines 1 and 2; Makban-Kalayaan 230 kV line; Tayabas-Quezon Power 230 kV lines 1 and 2,Dolores-Malaya 230 kV line 2; San Jose-Tayabas 500 kV line 2; Kalayaan-Calauan 230 kV line; Biñan-Makban 230 kV line 2, Biñan-Dasmariñas 230 kV line 1

[3] Pagbilao Units 1 (150 MW) and 2 (140 MW), San Lorenzo Mod 60 (242 kW), Quezon Power (225MW); Kalayaan Units 1 (25MW) and 3 (45MW); Ilijan A and B (700MW), Calaca Unit 2 (160MW)

[4] Sucat-Sun Valley 115 kV line; Biñan-Sucat 230 kV line 2; Dolores-Teresa 115 kV line; Hermosa-Malolos 230 kV line; Araneta-Sucat 230 kV line, Ambuklao-Bayombong 230 kV line 1; Sucat-Taguig 115 kV line, Dolores-Shagrila 115 kV line, Balintawak-Cruz na Daan 230 kV line, Balintawak-Hermosa 230 kV line; Araneta-Rockwell 115 kV line; Angat-San Jose 115 kV line

[5] Inflation factors adopted by the ERC in determining the nominal values of its CAPEX, Final Determination – MODEL on 2nd Regulatory Period Application.

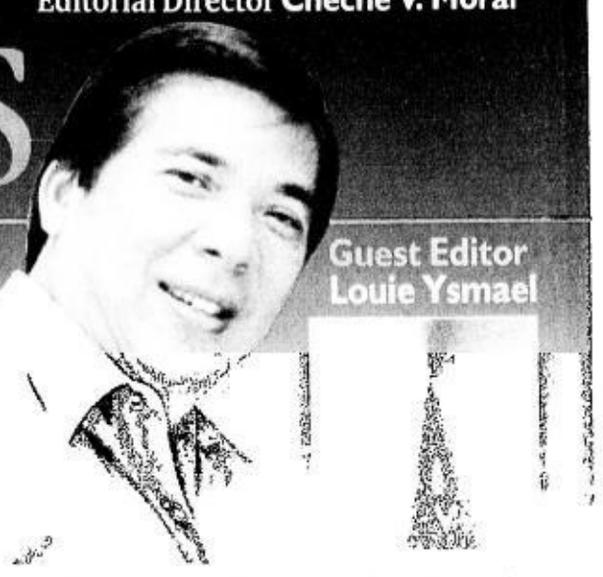
[6] ERC-approved WACC, Final Determination on 2nd Regulatory Period Application, page 126.

(PDI – November 25, 2007)

Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Editorial Director Cheche V. Moral

Guest Editor Louie Ysmael



STARGAZER

From disco to dining: An evolution

By Louie Ysmael

MY LIFE SINCE AGE 30 has morphed from "discos and clubs" to "bars and restaurants," thus the monikers about me—from "Disco King" to "King of the Nightlife" and "Party King."

These are all very flattering, thank you, but how this all came about was far from the rosy picture many people have of the business.

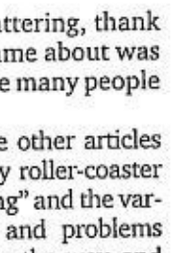
This editorial and the other articles will attempt to show my roller-coaster ride from "Disco to Dining" and the various events, scenarios and problems that we encounter along the way, and how difficult it is to stay on top. Hopefully this will give more of an insight on the fun and foibles of a very interesting occupation.

But first let me take you through a brief history of my establishments.

There had been two or three previous dance clubs or discos before Stargazer, but none of them had the impact and the dynamism of Stargazer.

The right element here was primarily the good location. The other ingredients were good service, the right music and good crowd control. It's the formula I had adapted from all the clubs I had been to around the world.

In August 1980, Biboy Enriquez asked me to run Stargazer, a disco/dance club at the top of the Silahis Hotel.



I introduced the membership card, which turned out to be a phenomenal success. If you didn't have a card, you had to pay the entrance fee. If you did have a card, it was good for you plus three guests. Above that you had to pay.

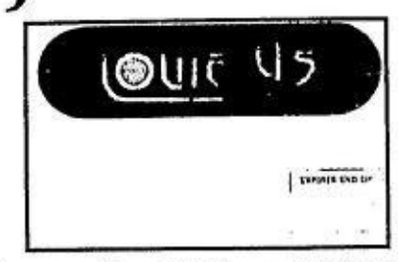
So I distributed the cards to the Who's Who in Manila society, the party crowd basically, and the card became a much-coveted item.

The "card" eventually became the key to social and party status in a town where the nightspots would play a major role in Manila's young but vibrant entertainment scene. It was great. Fantastic music, great décor, beautiful view of Manila Bay, gorgeous and sexy women everywhere. You know what I mean.

The biggest problem and the first-ever major hassle was a shooting death at the elevator lobby, which I would rather not get into. And as you read on you shall see why.

'Mr. Disco'

After Stargazer came Louie Y's, where I finally established myself as Mr. Disco and put my name in lights. Perched on the top floor of the Hyatt on the boulevard, it likewise had a breathtaking view of the bay and pioneered



the use of laser lighting and TV monitors in discos.

I still maintain that the music of that era (1979 to mid-'80s) was and still is the best dance music. Even present-day club music is going back to that good soulful sound with "remixes" and adaptations of old hits, much the same way guys like Rod Stewart and others do with the old romantic ballads and love songs.

After I closed Louie Y's after the Edsa Revolution, the Boulevard scene began to fade away and other clubs started to sprout in Makati, such as Rumors and Culture Club. I decided to join the bandwagon and began looking for the right spot.

Meanwhile, I opened up a place called Pare with a restaurant called Kuya on its terrace. It was the first dark and cave-like private ballroom club catering to an older, spending crowd. In other words, Pare was not a disco. It was a small cozy dance club with the occasional live band that played a mixture of Latin, soul and European dance music.

Unfortunately, Pare was short-lived. It lasted about a year-and-a-half, probably because I started to concentrate on the bigger picture.

Euphoria

Eventually I was fortunate enough to get the old Where Else at the Intercon and turn it into Euphoria. The hotel did not want to operate it and it was up for bids, so we (Biboy Enriquez, Sonny Lim, Bengy Toda and Iñigo Zobel) decided to make a go for it. I had finally found the right location and we outbidded several others who wanted it.

We opened Euphoria on Dec. 5, 1987, and it became an instant hit. Faces had opened the year before and we, more or less, competed for the same market until Faces had to close up in the mid-'90s.

Toward the latter-middle part of Euphoria, Giraffe opened in '94 or '95, and that was a very successful bar, which Tonyboy Cojuangco and his gang owned. We kept Euphoria until I sold it in '99.

After the whole disco phase I decided to open my own little club-bar called Venezia with Philip Cruz, Ed Roxas and Iñigo, but Euphoria was still open. Venezia was opened in March of 1997 and was an instant hit.

For three years I ran both Euphoria and Venezia simultaneously. I had to park one of my cars in one place and another car in the other place so people would know that I was there. I had to shuffle back and forth and it was tiring.

It was always important, though, that you were perceived to be around because a lot of people usually liked to come to a place where they knew the owner and knew he was around. It was that personal.

And I believe that it still is but to a lesser extent now as the market has grown by leaps and bounds and it's almost impossible to know everyone. The owner has to really personify the establishment; they're one and the same.

V BAR EST. 1997

Eventually I had to focus my attention on one place. In this business it's hard to spread yourself thin because you may end up losing both. Fortunately I was able to find a willing buyer and sold Euphoria to Mark Jimenez, who transformed it back to Where Else. I concentrated on Venezia for five years then renovated it and called it V-Bar for three years.

Another shooting

After another unfortunate shooting, which resulted in a tragic death, plus the competition posed by new clubs and bars in newer and more convenient locations, we decided to give the place a total makeover and a new name to try and erase the stigma of the shooting.

We called it Citrus, a really cool setup with crisp and clean interiors and a totally new look. Unfortunately the makeover did not erase the stigma. You can have as many fist fights, catfights, hair-pulling, table-and-chair throwing incidents in a club, especially when celebrities are involved, and you'll still be okay.

But one shooting is the kiss of death. So we decided to sell the venue. As I write this piece it will have been five days since a tragic blast at Glorietta 2 blew away the bar and resulted in the building having to be condemned and rebuilt.

It's still a profitable business mainly because of alcohol sales. In every club that I had before my foray into the restaurant business, the sales would basically be 95-percent booze and 5-percent food. Venezia was opened as a place where you could have lunch and dinner, but when it became known as a nightspot, we stopped serving lunch but continued to serve heavy bar chow.

So when I evolved to my first restaurant, Nuvo, it suddenly became a more complicated situation. It's fine dining and you're in a strip with equally good places. But we were the first on that strip of Greenbelt 2.

Faced with the daunting task of creating a new and exciting idea of fine dining and bar, my Venezia/V-Bar partners and I decided to spare no expense to open Nuvo.

VENEZIA BAR & RESTAURANT ...in a class of its own.

Chef Billy King was hired to run the kitchen, and I integrated a nice bar concept with an al-fresco lounging and dining area, which up to the present really has no equal in that part of the Ayala Center.

The formula here is basically the same. Expats and up-market locals (age demographic: 21-60) like the place for its food, personalized service and soothing music. It's a great place to people-watch and just relax and enjoy good company.

We are now in the process of renovating the mezzanine of Nuvo to be a cozy smoking lounge with modern luxurious interiors and an extra dash of panache.

As this goes to print, we would have most likely opened and hopefully with a bang.

Silk

In the case of Silk, our newest baby, which we opened exactly a year ago, it is totally my wife Cecille's idea. Being avowed foodies, we love to eat and eat well. We love entertaining at home.

A favorite cuisine of ours is Thai and because of an affinity I have with Thailand where I have many old friends, we would travel there at least twice a year to visit, shop and eat.

Cecille eventually became such a natural with Thai food, we would serve it de rigueur during intimate dinners with friends. Everybody loved her cooking so much and many prodded us to open a Thai restaurant.

So off went Cecille back and forth to Bangkok and Chiang Mai for six months to hone up on her Thai culinary skills and learn about the tastes and flavors of that interesting and delicious Asian cuisine.

The success of Silk I attribute completely to Cecille, who, while I was doing my thing with Venezia and Nuvo (we were married in 1998), would observe and absorb the ins and outs of operating the business, from the financial side to the personnel to the kitchen. She brought it up another notch. We opened Silk as pioneers at Serendra, and to this day it has been an astounding success.

(Hats off, Darling!)

I was more or less forced to evolve to a business that required less long nights because I was getting older and hard-put to keep up with the hardcores.

When my friends see the new clubs succeeding, they say, "Louie, how come you're not doing this? These are gold mines." And I respond by saying, "Yeah, but you know I don't really know most of the young crowd anymore."

You have to have a continuous network. Once you're absent from it for a while, you tend to lose it.

Even in Nuvo I have a team of people who help me with my events throughout the week. But it doesn't stop me from investing in other ventures like what I'm doing with Erik Cua.

I'm looking forward to joining Erik and his new "members only" club next to Embassy, which is opening in January.

So my evolution into fine dining was inevitable. It was a natural progression. I have no regrets at all, even though things didn't turn out exactly how I wanted them to be.

What's missing is a bigger market because there's too much competition now in Manila and it is a feat to be on top.

I would have liked to see Manila become like Hong Kong or Shanghai where there are tons of clubs and they are all doing well thanks to their super economies and an influx of quality tourists and expats.

I am very proud to say, though, that as far as discos, clubs and bars are concerned in this party town, I have left my mark.

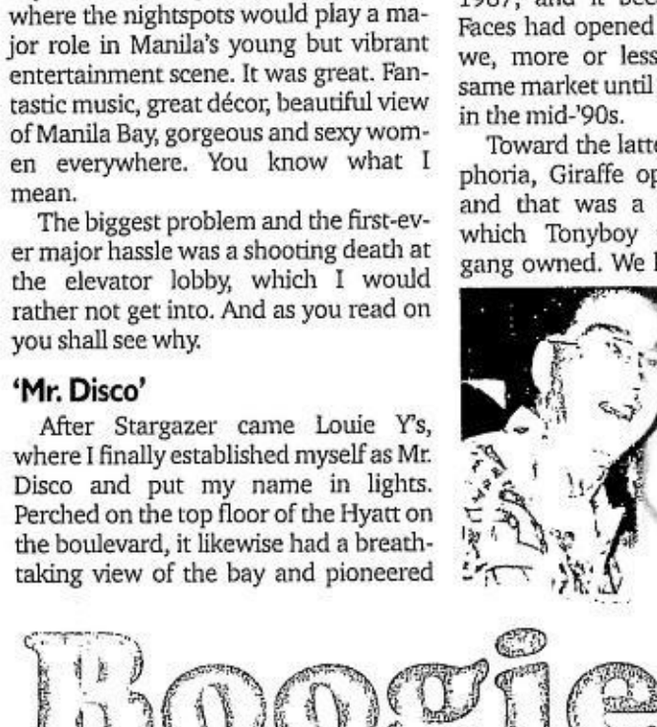
My professional evolution ran parallel to my personal life, and to the evolution of Manila's nightlife in general. It's still possible that someone can come up to me and give me an electric shock to start a new club. It all depends on certain factors. If everything is in place then there might be a possibility. I guess I'll never quit—I'll just fade away.

Last month, 24/7, the entertainment weekly, awarded me a lifetime achievement award.

When I received the award I said, "It was great partying with all of you, guys. I want to thank everybody who partied with me over the years. This is great but I feel it's still a little bit too early in life to receive an award like this. Although it is much appreciated, I'd like to let everyone know that I ain't done yet."

Boogie nights

Since the 1970s, the night-club scene has never faltered. It has always been swinging



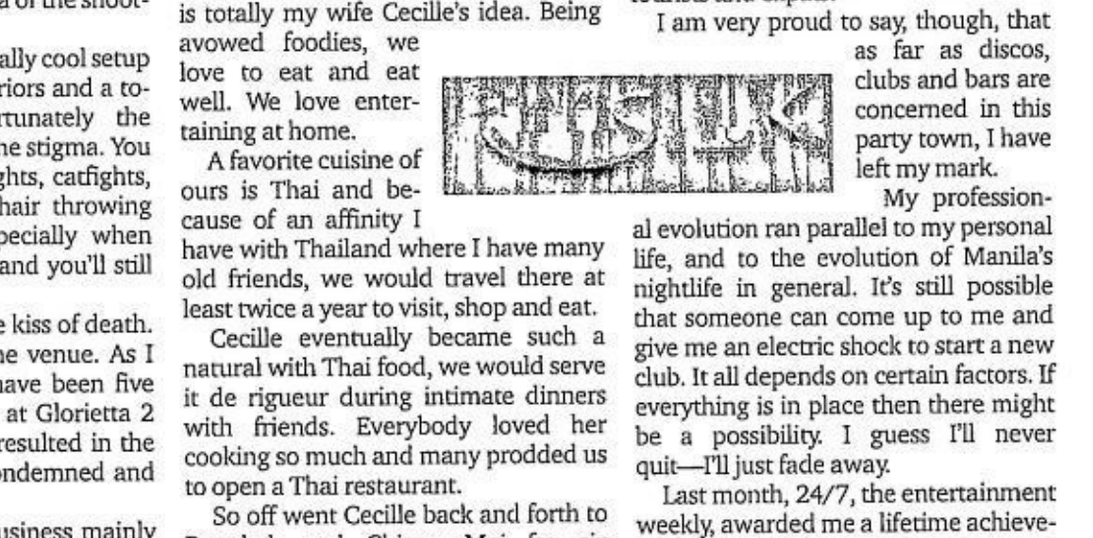
By Maurice Arcache

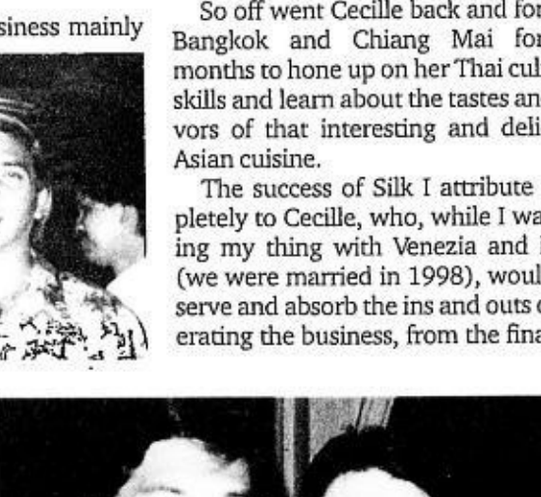
COSMOPOLITAN MANILLE IS rising faster than a rocket. Yes, dahlings, Manille is sizzling by night, and you've got to know when and where to go from restaurants to dance clubs.

Most everyone knows the only time to go out these days is all week long (but definitely not before 10 p.m.) as there is a continuous beat in the night scene.

Stargazer

Now, let's turn back the hands of time. The place to be seen during the late '60s and early '70s was Circuit of the Hyatt hotel on Roxas Boulevard. But then our town's fickle night owls moved to gorgeous Stargazer on the penthouse of the Silahis Hotel, where the main attraction was Louie Ysmael, no less, who revolutionized the disco scene. The music then is what you hear in many ballroom-dancing clubs today.





Naturellement, when Stargazer was packed you'd have a couple of fights now and then. I saw this statuesque beauty push her admirer and stormed off when he refused to sit down when she asked him to. The admirer, who was so jealous of the eligible and *tres-tres* prominent politician of today who had eyes for the statuesque lady, fell to the floor!

After Stargazer, the in place became the penthouse of Hyatt, where the scene changed

BOOGIE/ 2

Those were the days

Compiled by Fran Katigbak

PARTYING COULD MEAN GUZZLING BOTTLES OF vodka with the boys till sunrise. Or just showing up to see and be seen. Maybe it's about keeping count of the celebs and models you've hobnobbed with. Or how many dance steps you can memorize and execute in a heartbeat.

While partying can be generational (what used to be groovy can now be, like, wayyy uncool), we cannot really judge who had more fun, or could we? So we asked what it was people missed about partying in the past. Read on, have a few chuckles, and learn.

During the time I was single, we used to finish a bottle of vodka or scotch... we stayed up till morning. We were in our 20s, 30s, 40s. I gave up partying in 2001 and I don't stay out till 6-7 a.m. The latest I go home is 1 a.m. —**BONG DAZA**

The clubs! We had Circuit, which was THE place at the Hyatt during Martial Law when curfew was still in effect (I was in my teens then!). Then came Stargazer, which launched Louie Y to celebrity status, at Silahis Hotel. Coco Banana! Then back to the Hyatt when Louie opened Louie Y's. There also were Culture Club and Rumors. When Marcos left, things were quiet for a while. Then Euphoria opened with a bang! There were foreign DJs, foreign celebrities, models, beauties—one big party, night after night after night. Faces was a far second. It was really about going to these places without having to call anyone, without having to be with anyone, any night, any hour, knowing friends would be there, too. —**CHARLIE CARMONA**

Zeitgeist! Everything, [including] the clever cool mix of the crowd in a more controlled, manageable space. It's not the exclusivity that defined the place but the familial comfort, which everyone had enjoyed and sort of miss, and the intimacy. It's just generational. The healthy evolvement of today's night scene has allowed people more options and excitement. —**JOJI DINGCONG**

It's the songs, especially those in the '80s you were able to dance and sing to. There were specific steps to a specific song. Of course now that's cheesy but it used to be fun. We had to practice before going to the party or disco so we would look good [on the dance floor]. —**ANTON SAN DIEGO**

What we miss... the elegance, class, spontaneity. Life is one big party. So might as well dance. Dance with style! —**MIKE TOLEDO**

The people during that period were a lot kinder, and had a better attitude about going out and having a good time. There were less social barriers, and the majority of the partyphiles had better manners. —**BOYET SISON**

I didn't really party in the '90s save for the requisite staying-a-while after the shows in Faces, Euphoria and Mars. What I can remember is that models never had to pay for anything, I don't know if this is still the case now. We never stayed past midnight because, in the days before Photoshop, we always had to sleep early to avoid eyebags. These days parties start after midnight, and you can Photoshop the ravages of "wastage" all you want! —**MYRZA SISON**

Boogie nights

From page 1

from a small cocktail lounge, where you had a small dance floor to wiggle your body, to the wide disco floor at this ultra-posh setting called Louie Y's, natch.

The view alone was worth the effort to go there, and the music barely gave the clientele enough time to sit down, have their drink and watch the beautiful crowd of Manila. And yes, dahlings, the in crowd would drive all the way to the bay area.

But in Makati was a small disco that had sleek cars parking outside, as far as your eyes could see. It was simply called Zig-Zag, owned by the late Ogie Salonga and Dante Silverio. After this, disco clubs started mushrooming in Makati faster than you could bat an eyelash, such as Culture Club, where the hip set could be found, and the pulsating Mars at the entrance of San Lorenzo Village facing Pasay Road.

The big thing was dancing on the ledges in front of the disc jockey's booth. You had celebrities teasingly doing a strip act, girls and boys of social standing showing off their dancing body language. Would you believe, even *moi* was one of those on the ledges sometimes, but only when I was pushed to dance there, with enough booze in me to dare to do so, *palanggas*.

Rumors, Faces

Rumors was an even bigger disco club, which could hold more than 1,000 in one body-to-body weekend night. Mari Lagdameo, the late Ogie S. and their pals were the hotshots of the place.

Faces bloomed next, like a flower you'd want to preserve forever. Bobong Velez and Irene Martel Francisco were the king and queen of this club, which was even bigger than Rumors.

There were, of course, those dark corners of the club where I'd spot many married men on a night out, without their wives—ooops!

Adding more dash to the place, Bobong V put in a small café-resto where the hungry could put back the calories they lost from dancing, to recharge and start all over again rock 'n' rolling on the dance floor.

The next ultra-chic place was Euphoria, at the lower level of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati, mostly because of Louie Y, who took over the place and successfully lorded it over for years. I christened Louie "Disco King."

Changes

Somehow the style changed during the late '80s or '90s. A different kind of sound was born and disco gradually died a natural death, dahlings, as bar-restos took its place.

You had the super-popular Giraffe, where you had stand-up tables and the most fantastic sounds, sending the clientele into a frenzy, dancing wherever they found space to do so, which was not hard at all, since almost everyone was doing the same thing.

Among the hot namedroppables who owned Giraffe were Tony Boy Cojuangco, Al Tengco, Bubut Quicho and Ting Feliciano. It was where international supermodel Anne Bayle (who was in town for a breather from her modeling stints in Europe and New York) met her future American husband, who, by chance, was also in transit in Manille on a business trip.

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Tale of 2 restaurateurs

Margarita Fores of Pepato and Colin McKay of Sala talk about the ups and downs of the resto business

By Rowena C. Burgos

MANAGING A RESTAURANT IS trickier than it looks. It's a lot of businesses in one business. Besides making sure the food is good, owners serve as hosts, bosses, and budget-watchers all at once.

"People often look at the food-service industry as a kind of pass-through job. But it is not just about cooking; it's more about discipline, commitment and organization," says Margarita Fores, owner of Cibo, Café Bola and Pepato.

Colin McKay, owner of Sala and People's Palace, says his life revolves around his restaurants. "I attend to my businesses 24/7. I'm very hands-on, especially with the preparation of meals and drinks. I like to maintain authenticity. Otherwise, the restaurants' whole concept might go off-tangent."

When Fores opened Cibo 10 years ago, no one could have predicted it would be a bellwether for a new style of casual Italian restaurant. Since then, Fores has opened nine more Cibos, and two Café Bola and Pepato outlets each.

Fores proudly says that the sole purpose of her restaurants is to return to the true craft of cooking by simplifying the elements of taste and technique. She follows that idea with rigor.

For McKay, great cooking is foremost tasty cooking, not just wacky experiments at the guests' expense. A great cook knows the mysterious chemistry of food but, like McKay, brings it all to bear in an effort to please.

FORES

PEPATO in Greenbelt 2, Makati

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Home-style cooking

An accounting graduate, Fores didn't attend formal cooking classes. She went to Italy in the late '80s to work in restaurant kitchens and learn home-style cooking for eight months.

"Home-style cooking takes longer but it's what makes our restaurants unique—being able to produce food of higher quality," she says.

Upon her return to the Philippines, she dabbled in catering and, at the same time, learned the ropes of running a restaurant at an Italian diner in Cubao, Quezon City. It took her three years to decide on going full-time in the business.

McKay, a graduate of hotel and restaurant management, used to work in Hong Kong, Australia and Scotland. "During my visits to the Philippines, I noticed that no one was serving European food. It was always American or pseudo-Italian food," says McKay, whose passion for food was ignited when he was just a kid.

Inspired by Malate's diverse crowd of diners and bargoers, he opened Joy in 1998 and People's Palace the following year.

But when many dining establishments in Malate started to close down in 2004, McKay transferred to Makati, which, for him, was a very good move. People's Palace, Sala and Sala Bistro are all located in Greenbelt. "One is European, the other Asian. Everyone does Chinese, Japanese and Korean. There was hardly anybody who was doing Thai food so I went to Thailand and studied its cuisine."

Challenges

Opening a restaurant is the classic armchair entrepreneur fantasy. But the reality is not exactly dreamy. The business undoubtedly is filled with uncertainty and can be affected by unforeseen factors.

Escalating energy prices, rising interest rates, high staff turnover, long hours, a labyrinth of regulation and holidays falling on the calendar—all can conspire against restaurateurs, wreaking havoc on business by squelching sales or eating away at already thin margins.

Everyone in the restaurant business can relate to some—or all—of the aforementioned factors.

"We've gone through a lot of struggles like the economy being affected by the political situation and smoking rules in restaurants. There are a lot of challenges that change the picture of the restaurant industry," Fores says.

When Fores opened Cibo in 1997 in Glorietta, Makati, she "would get a high from cooking, serving tables, seeing many diners who would create a lot of buzz about our resto. It was a logistical challenge to accommodate everybody in such a small place."

But it was also a first for Fores to see the displeasure of people who could not be accommodated despite having made reservations and to be embarrassed by waiters who forgot orders.

For McKay, the sourcing of ingredients has been a tough challenge. "Especially when we moved to Makati because the volume of sales went up like 10 times. We now serve 80 pomelo salads a day. And that's a whole lot of pomelo. But moving stocks most of the time is a good thing because it means the food we serve is always fresh."

Although his businesses have been affected by the recent explosion in Glorietta, McKay says he "has confidence in Ayala that they'll check everything properly and make sure this won't happen again."

Toughest job

Of the restaurateurs' jobs-within-a-job, managing staff can be the toughest. In-

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gles' club. So where the gals are, the boys (including big businessmen and politicians) are, too, *di bala*.

There's also the popular Warehouse 135 that sizzles with fun happenings. It is led by Domini Primero, no less.

Night life

Fast-forward. *Naturellement*, we have Nuvo, still one of the best places to go to. Good food, good company, great music and, thank goodness, Louie Ysmael. Yes, *palanggas*, from Disco King to King of the Night Life, Louie rides on.

For after late, late-night partying, it's gotta be Capone's in Salcedo Village, Makati, a bar-resto that serves breakfast with the best *tapa* and fried rice this side of Batangas. Here you can be sure you'll be welcomed by the main man, young entrepreneur Joey Server.

And I must include here Christine San Diego's Absinth, consistently being a bar one goes to to have a real good time.

And as *moi* can see, the ongoing trend is definitely the disco revival. There is an unexplainable energy everywhere. The restaurants, bars, clothes and shops—everything is more optimistic, *palanggas*. The restaurant scene has remained, as always with bars and dancing clubs, packing them in like a tin of sardines.

Clashes

Once there was this beautiful married woman, *de alta sociedad*, who threw her full glass of Bloody Mary at a gorgeous young heiress who had just come back from one of the most chi-chi schools in Europe, who was flirting back with the beautiful woman's husband.

And there was also this glamorous lady who threw an ashtray at a model because she caught her husband with the model in one of those popular clubs I had mentioned above.

Last, but definitely not least, was the ultra-glam socialite who caught her husband in the arms of a starlet in a private club. She threw the champagne bottle at him, but missed.

Cosmo Manille is moving constantly and quickly, and we are part of it. Now, isn't that great, *palanggas*?

"I love the night life, I love to boogie..." Now, you sing from there, *palanggas*.

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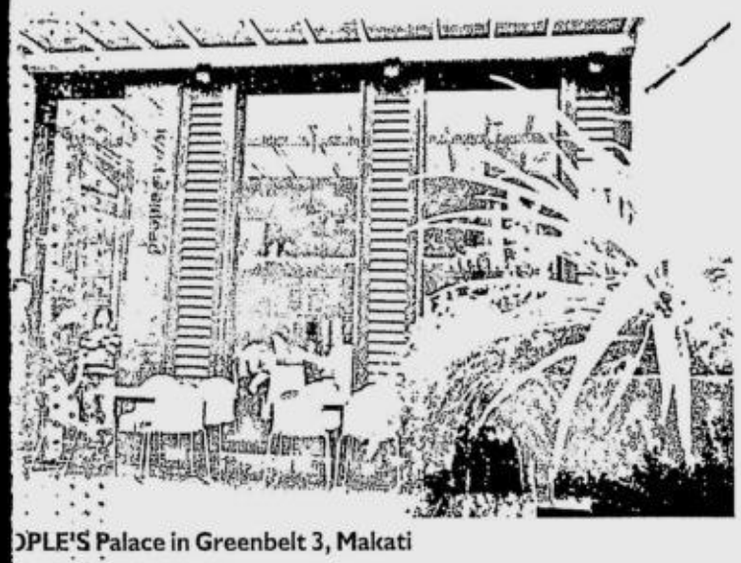

PLE'S Palace in Greenbelt 3, Makati

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that feels rewarding. Or when guests say they love our food, that touches me because pleasing guests is important."

After 20 years in the business, Fores does not have a tinge of regret. "I don't feel like winding down. I still enjoy it as much as I did 20 years ago. But my fulfillment lies in seeing how my staff have changed, learned to love the business and feel better about themselves."

Better management

Despite the uncontrollable variables that affect the industry, a lot of restaurateurs have learned to manage their enterprises with better business intelligence and planning.

"One has to be always full of ideas. And when the stakes get higher and the budget bigger, focus on your market's needs and wants. Apply your style to the concept that would cater to them," McKay says.

Fores believes that the proof of success is when a restaurant has lasted for more than five years. "There's so much competition nowadays. So you have to keep reinventing your enterprise and keep holding promos. Know how to manage your costs and revenues. You must also possess good social skills to stay long in this business."

Dining-out etiquette for Pinoys

Even adult diners are expected to behave well like kids

By Anne A. Jambora

EVER BEEN ANNOYED BY A LOUD diner seated, of all places, next to your table, just when you were in the mood for a quiet dinner? You know, the kind who lets out an obnoxious laugh, exposing his molars and amalgams, with a piece of lettuce stuck between his teeth? You not only learn his entire life story during the rapid-fire exchange but also realize he badly needs to see his dentist as well. Like, right now.

Chef and restaurateur Cecille Ysmael, operator of Silk at Serendra, The Fort, a Thai-food specialty resto, has probably seen it all. Almost all forms of quirks and foibles, that is.

Ysmael said it takes loads of dedication, tons of hard work and passion to manage a restaurant especially since you run the risk of bumping into a myriad of personalities that are, well, not always pleasant. It is one thing to pursue your calling, and another to submit to what your clients want.

Take, for instance, spices. When eating Thai you expect, at the very least, a little kick on the palate—but of course. Spices, after all, define Thai cuisine. Still, said Ysmael, she gets occasional customers who expect nil—as in *nada*—spice at all in their food. That would be like stepping into an Italian diner and demanding to see crepes on its *dolce* menu.

CHEF Cecille Ysmael
PHOTO: RODEL ROTONI

But like a good restaurateur, Ysmael complies, but not without explaining how much of the intrinsic taste will be lost. "What's going to happen to my soup? That would be like eating *sinigang*," she said.

Reservations

Bet you don't RSVP. The French phrase "*répondez, s'il vous plait*," meaning "please reply," is lost among Filipinos. In Western culture an invite with RSVP requires a prompt reply, preferably on the same day the invite was received. But not so in the Philippines, which is probably why Filipinos have an offhand attitude toward restaurant reservations.

The attitude, in fact, is too casual it is deplorable. A typical 7 p.m. reservation, said Ysmael, will be occupied a whole two hours later. Or, for Scenario 2, a sole representative will be sent to hold an entire table for 15, while the rest of the group would arrive in trickles after an hour or so. Or, for Scenario 3, it's a no-show at all. In a business that depends largely on diner turnover, situations like these are real deal breakers, Ysmael said.

Whatever happened to the simple courtesy of calling and explaining you won't make it or you will be late? Go ahead and lie. Make up a story. Pretend you slipped in the bathroom and broke a toe, however illogical that sounds. Just please inform the restaurant of your cancellation or change of reservation. What's even worse, Ysmael said, is when the client doesn't pick up when the restaurant calls to confirm the reservation.

While some people are content copying items on the menu—yes, oddly enough that really happens—others actually steal the entire menu! Are you guilty of sneaking into your purse that lovely flatware? Unless restaurants install metal detectors at the doors with guards poking at everyone's purses upon exit, there's simply no way anyone can keep an eagle's eye on clients at all times.

Abuses

Abuses come in many forms. Senior-citizen cardholders, bless their hearts, are often caught guilty of pretending to pay for the entire group when the 20-percent discount should only be applicable to the cardholder. A *balikbayan* even flashed her US-issued senior-citizen card upon payment. The discount was granted, said Ysmael, who rationalized the old lady deserved a discount, although she explained the Philippines only honors Philippine-issued IDs.

In family-oriented restaurants, many parents take advantage of the eat-all-you-can rice promo. Adults order a plate of rice for their child, for instance, and repetitively ask the waiter to fill up the child's plate as they stealthily scoop tablespoon after tablespoon of rice off the child's plate, not knowing that table attendants keep track of the rice servings. Worse, when charged for extra plates, these types refuse to pay up!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

"As parents these people are setting a bad example to their children," Ysmael said.

Another appalling behavior she noticed is the way Filipino customers treat the wait staff as if they were their personal servants. "I feel bad whenever guests raise their voice at my staff or treat them like second-class citizens. You cannot do that abroad, yet sadly many Filipinos are guilty of that," she said.

Protocol

At a fine-dining restaurant, it is standard protocol for a waiter to place the napkin on a guest's lap. Some clients, however, refuse this service. That should be fine if only they know how to speak kindly to the attendants, Ysmael said. More often the poor waiter is told off, as the high-and-mighty diner is perfectly capable of putting his/her own napkins on his/her lap!

There are also diners who complain the food is unsatisfactory after wiping their plates clean, and refuse to pay for the entire meal. How they consumed to the last morsel a supposedly bad meal is a mystery. Don't like the food? Then don't eat it. Period.

Many diners are aware of restaurants' policy on a standard corkage fee. Unfortunately, many balk at the thought of paying extra for the wine or booze they bring in. Unless you own the place or once saved the owner's child from drowning in the bath, come on, pay for corkage. Business is business. And unless you want to be chased by the chef with his cleaver, never bring in your own food. Please.

Just because you're going to spend good money doesn't mean you're entitled not to follow the dress code and walk in a restaurant in your funky flipflops or shorts. You will not be turned away, said Ysmael—we Filipinos are too polite—but you will most likely find yourself uncomfortable in the company of diners dressed to the nines.

When service is good and food is great, leaving a tip is an excellent way of showing your appreciation even if you're not planning to come back. And you will come back if the experience was satisfactory. Unless you don't mind the sarcastic whispers behind your back and earning the reputation as the cheap diner, tipping at least 10 percent of the total bill is a must.

Hazards and highs of the business

By Louie Ysmael

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU THROUGH A few aspects of the trade and some of the inherent problems we encounter in clubs and restaurants.

The losers. Overly intoxicated, extremely obnoxious, overbearing customers. They come from every sector in society. They are rude to the staff and many still strut with that do-you-know-who-I-am attitude. Security always has to be on the lookout for a sudden flare-up or commotion and be able to neutralize it as soon as possible. Any club owner will tell you that there are numerous circumstances for such events to happen and it goes without saying that they're "bad for business."

Runaways, signing privileges and control systems. There are customers who order and then just take off without paying. That normally happens when a club is full, and that used to happen a lot because Filipinos are not used to the American pay-as-you-order system. Here you get a lot of "*minamadali mo yata ako*" and "*bakit, mukha bang tatakbuhan ko ang* bill?" But they don't realize that it's hard to control when there are so many people moving around. So if a club is full and the customer is not a good paying regular, it's best to implement the "pay as you order" system if you're standing up and intend to move around. If you have a table then you can run up a tab with your card. VIP areas in clubs don't usually have this problem. I would lose around 1 or 2 percent a month on "runaways." And if it got out of hand, what we do is charge it to the staff assigned to the area so they would make sure that the customers would not leave without paying.

You have to be very careful about giving credit or signing privileges. Many good customers who are close friends inadvertently leave without even signing their order slips, either because they are in a hurry or they forget. Most pay when they come back but there are a few who, when approached with their previous bill, refuse to acknowledge it, or when the poor messenger comes to collect, he gets cursed from head to toe, even after as much as 80 days of delinquency. What these people don't realize is that we are a business like any other that depends on cash flow and we are not even charging interest for the convenience. But again it's ticklish because it is also a "privilege," but one that should not be abused.

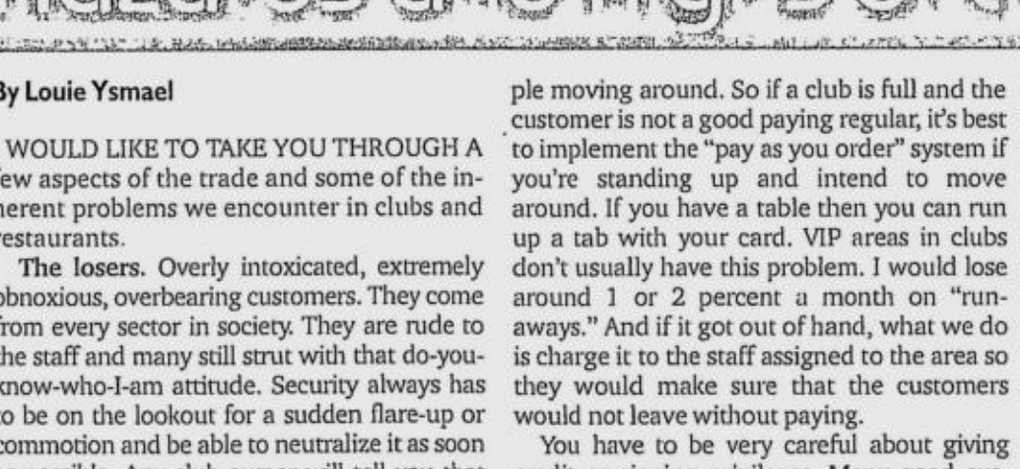
There are also the "spoiled bartenders" or "*sukis*" who, if your system is flawed and you have such rascals, will accept a big tip at the beginning of the night from a cheap and scheming customer and pour endless drinks to the guest.

Tip pocketing and syndicates. Always keep the staff happy, make them good troupers and a "family." But implement a good control system so that your staff won't be tempted to exploit the family camaraderie. Which brings me to "tip pocketing" and syndicates.

The normal policy for our establishments is to pool the tips, to be shared equally by the service and kitchen staff. It's basically an honor system where, if you are observed to have pocketed a tip instead of dropping it in the tip box, you are disgraced by your colleagues for having essentially stolen from your co-equals, and are subject to a stern warning and/or possible dismissal. The obvious reason for this exercise is so that the staff is equally attentive and courteous to everyone and favoritism is minimized.

Syndicates can also be a bane in this business. There will always be the few rotten eggs who will entice the new and naïve to join a syndicate. They could form syndicates in the kitchen or the service staff and even go in cahoots with the security. Pilferage of linen, utensils and food and beverage inventory can also be a problem.

The solution to this is continuous hands-on management in every aspect, and being keenly circumspect of situations that may lead to some of your "family" going astray. Personally, I am very proud of our staff at Nuvo and Silk for their dedication to work and keeping with the high standards demanded of the trade.



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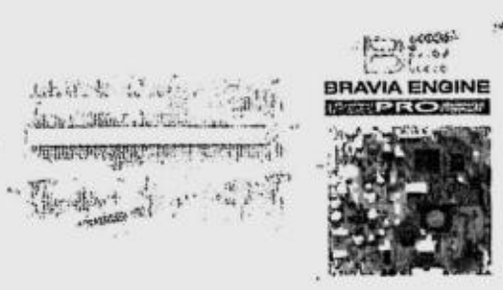

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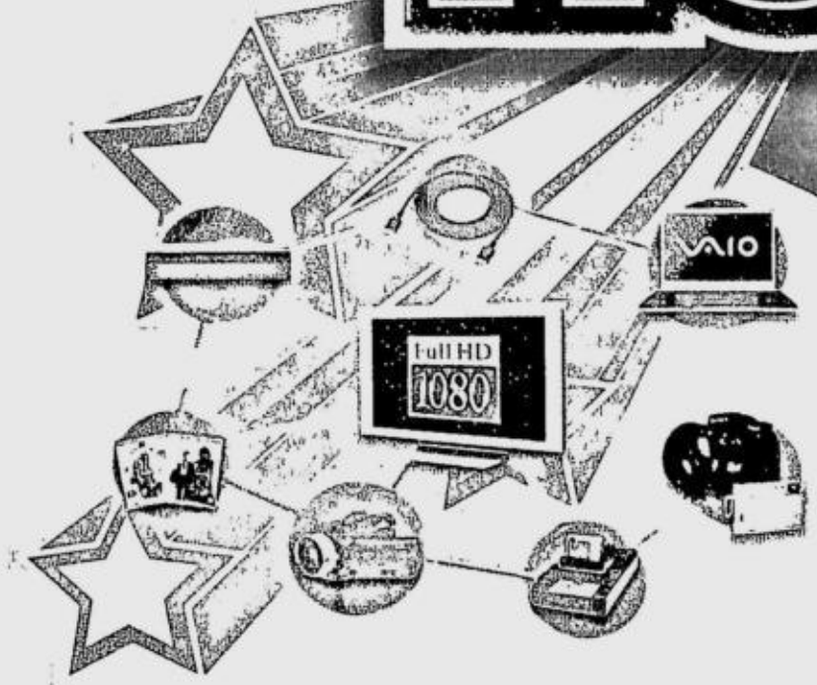

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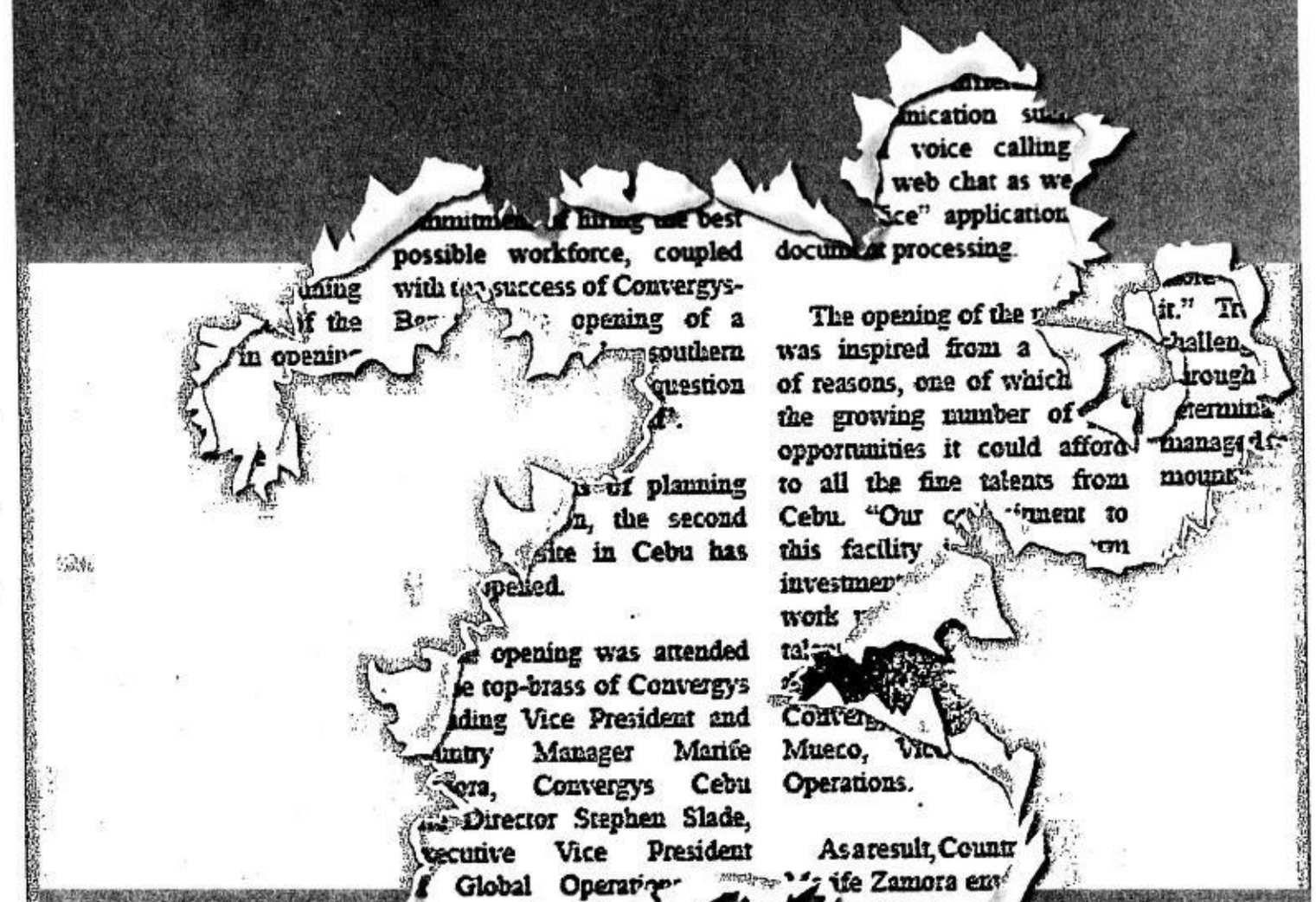

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POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V (Human Resource Management Officer III)
Salary Grade : 18
Place of Assignment : Finance and Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree
Experience : 2 years of relevant experience
Training : 8 hours relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : ACCOUNTANT I
Salary Grade : 11
Place of Assignment : Finance and Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : RA 1080

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV (Accounting Clerk I)
Salary Grade : 4
Place of Assignment : Finance and Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years of studies in college
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional) First Level Eligibility

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE III (Driver I)
Salary Grade : 3
Place of Assignment : Finance and Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Elementary Graduate
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Driver (MC II, s 96 - Cat. II) Driver's License

POSITION : MUSEUM CURATOR II
Salary Grade : 24
Place of Assignment : Zoology, Planetarium, Arts, Archaeological Sites and Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Masteral Degree
Experience : 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision
Training : 24 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : ARTIST ILLUSTRATOR II
Salary Grade : 8
Place of Assignment : Zoology & Botany-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course
Experience : 1 year of relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional), Draftsman or Illustrator (MCII, s. 96 - Cat I) First Level Eligibility

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE IV (Clerk II)
Salary Grade : 4
Place of Assignment : Botany, Archaeology & Planetarium Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in college
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional), First Level Eligibility

POSITION : MUSEUM TECHNICIAN I
Salary Grade : 6
Place of Assignment : Anthropology, Archaeology & Archaeological Sites & Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in college
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : None required (MC II, s. 96 - Cat III)

POSITION : MUSEUM TECHNICIAN II
Salary Grade : 8
Place of Assignment : Zoology & Geology Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in college
Experience : 1 year of relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional), Museum Technician (MC II, s. 96 - Cat III)

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE I (Utility Worker I)
Salary Grade : 1
Place of Assignment : Zoology Division-Manila
Education : Must be able to read and write
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : None required (MC II, s. 96 - Cat III)

POSITION : MUSEUM RESEARCHER I
Salary Grade : 10
Place of Assignment : Geology, Zoology, Anthropology, Archaeology Cultural Properties & Archaeological Sites & Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : MUSEUM RESEARCHER II
Salary Grade : 14
Place of Assignment : Anthropology, Archaeology, Planetarium & Archaeological Sites & Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree
Experience : 1 year relevant experience
Training : 4 hours relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : MUSEUM GUIDE
Salary Grade : 9
Place of Assignment : Museum Education Division & Archaeological Sites & Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in college
Experience : 1 year of relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional) First Level Eligibility

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE III (Clerk I)
Salary Grade : 3
Place of Assignment : Archaeological Sites & Branch Museums Division-Manila
Education : Completion of two years studies in College
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional) First Level Eligibility

POSITION : LIBRARIAN II
Salary Grade : 14
Place of Assignment : Museum Education Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or Information Science or Bachelor of Science in Education/Arts major in Library Science
Experience : 1 year relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : RA 1080

POSITION : SENIOR MUSEUM RESEARCHER
Salary Grade : 18
Place of Assignment : Arts, Archaeology Division & Archaeological Sites & Branch Museum Division
Education : Bachelor's degree
Experience : 2 year of relevant experience
Training : 8 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : INFORMATION OFFICER II
Salary Grade : 15
Place of Assignment : Museum Education Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree
Experience : 1 year of relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Sub-Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II
Salary Grade : 15
Place of Assignment : Finance & Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree relevant to the job
Experience : 1 year of relevant experience
Training : 4 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

POSITION : COMPUTER MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGIST I
Salary Grade : 11
Place of Assignment : Finance & Administrative Division-Manila
Education : Bachelor's degree relevant to the job
Experience : None required
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility

For inquiries, please contact the Personnel Section at Telephone No. 527-6621. Deadline for application - December 3, 2007.

Healthway MEDICAL Is Expanding!!!

Business Development and Operations Manager
Degree holder of any Medical or Business course. Graduate or with units in MHA, MBA or MA in Business or Health Administration. Male/ Female. At least 7 years of related experience, 3 years of which in the managerial capacity.

Clinic Officer
Degree holder of any allied Medical or Business course. Male/ Female, Single, 25-35 years old. At least 3 years supervisory background.

Administrative Assistant
Bachelors Degree in any field. Male/Female, Single, 20-30 years old. At least 1 year experience in Administrative work.

Patient Care Coordinator
Bachelors Degree in Mass Communications. Male/Female, Single, 20-30 years old. Excellent Communication and Interpersonal Skills.

Customer Relations Staff
Bachelors Degree in Marketing / Mass Communications. Female, Single, 20-30 yrs old. Excellent Communication and Interpersonal Skills.

Radiologic Technologist
Licensed. Male / Female, 20-30 years old. With training and related work experience in X-ray and ultrasound.

Medical Technologist
Licensed. Male/Female. 20-30 years old, with 1-2 years related work experience.

Staff Nurse
Licensed. Male/Female, 20-30 years old, with 1-2 years related work experience

Medical Records Staff
Degree holder of any Medical or Business course. Male/Female. 20-30 years old.

Cashier
Degree in BS Accountancy or related field. With at least 1 year experience in Cashiering. Female, Single, 20-30 yrs old.

Telephone Operator
Bachelors Degree in any field. Female, Single. 20-30 years old. Excellent Communication Skills.

Pharmacist
Licensed, Male/Female, 21-35 years old. With 2 years related experience.

Pharmacy Assistant
Pharmacy Graduate, Male/Female, 21-35 years old. With at least 1 year related experience.

Clinic Associate
Bachelors Degree. Undergraduates with at least 2 years in College and experience in dermatological procedures, Female, Single, 20-30 years old.

Healthway MEDICAL

Bring in comprehensive CV with 2x2 picture, TOR/Diploma at 5F Feliza Bldg., 108 Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or send it through email to: **chuck.cruz@healthway.com.ph**
www.healthway.com.ph

FILIPINO FOOD FAVORITES, INC.

We are currently in need of the following positions, preferably residents of Taytay Rizal, Tunasan, Molino, Valenzuela City, Makati City, Pasay City and Quezon City.

STORE MANAGERS (10)
- 20 to 30 years old , male or female Graduate of HRM , Foods & Nutrition, Management or related discipline
- At least in the top 20% of their class if fresh graduate
- Flexible, can work long hours, weekends & holidays
- Pleasing personality & with good communication skills
- High interest in managing a bakery store
- With at least 2 yrs work experience in food service or bakery operations
- Good track record in managing-people
- People & results oriented

BAKERS (10)
- 18 to 23 years old , male or female
- 5 ft tall , fair complexion ; pleasing personality & with a happy disposition as they will interface with the customers in the bakery area .
- At least first year college & can speak English
- Can work long hours including weekends & holidays
- With 1 to 2 yrs working experience

HR MANAGER (1)
- Age 22 & up ; male or female
- At least 2 yrs work experience in Hr or related discipline
- People & results oriented
- With good written and oral communications skills
- Flexible, can work under pressure

SHIFT MANAGERS (4)
- 20 to 24 years old , male or female
- Graduate of HRM , Foods & Nutrition, Management or related discipline
- At least in the top 20% of their class if fresh graduate
- Flexible, can work long hours , weekends & holidays
- Pleasing personality & with good communication skills
- High interest in managing a bakery store

PURCHASING OFFICER (1)
- At least 2-3 years work experience as buyer of Raw Material for Food & Packaging; Equipment, tools & utensils.

MARKETING OFFICERS (2)
- Age 22 & up ; male or female
- At least 2 yrs work experience in sales & marketing or related discipline
- Flexible in schedule
- Driven to deliver excellent results
- Knowledge of local store marketing is a must

R&D OFFICERS / MANAGERS (2)
- 20 to 30 years old , male or female Graduate of HRM , Foods & Nutrition, Management or related discipline
- Flexible, can work long hours , weekends & holidays
- Pleasing personality & with good communication skills
- High interest in managing a bakery store
- 1- 2 yrs R&D experience in food service setting
- Bakery experience is a plus
- Good track record in managing people
- People & results oriented

SECRETARY (1)
- 20-24 years old, female
- At least 2 years work experience
- Pleasing personality
- With good written & oral communication skills
- Computer literate

TECHNICIAN (1)
- At least 2 years work experience in electrical, mechanical and civil works.

SERVICE CREW (20)
- 18 to 23 years old , male or female
- 5 ft tall , fair complexion ; pleasing personality & with a happy disposition as they will interface with the customers in the bakery area .
- At least first year college & can speak English
- Can work long hours including weekends & holidays

Interview Schedule: November 27 – 29, 2007, Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00am – 12:00 noon Address : Unit 1203-A P&E Bldg. #12 United St., corner First St. Brgy Kapitolyo Pasig City (from EDSA Central, look for the Tricycle station near Jeepney Park, P&E Bldg. is AT THE BACK OF MANILA BANK) Kindly bring resume, NBI clearance, TOR & 2 ID pictures. Look for Ms. Claire Lazaro. Applicant may still drop their resume at the said location.

DAVIES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS, INC. (DTSI) specializes in the supply and installation of high quality and cost-effective waterproofing products, industrial floors, and protective/hygienic coatings. DTSI is inviting qualified applicants to join its Sales & Marketing team.

WANTED – SALES ENGINEER

- Engineering graduate preferably Civil Engineering or Architecture
- Experience in actual building construction is an advantage
- Experience in selling construction chemicals is also an advantage
- Hard-working, self-motivated and results-oriented
- Computer literate; good communication and presentation skills

Please send your application with recent photo to:

Davies Technical Solutions, Inc.
222 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, 1200 Makati City
Tel. Nos. 843-9368 / 840-3916

Fast growing corporation with Global Access in the Foreign Exchange Capital Markets (FxCM) is now hiring an...

Executive Assistant

Girl Friday to the Managing Director
& Chief Executive Officer
(Salary Negotiable)

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female, College Graduate of any Business Course, preferably in Management, Banking & Finance or Accounting; I.T. Computer literacy a must.
- A good conversant in both oral & written English, must be exceptionally smart with strong but pleasing personality; Assertive.
- At least 23 years old but not more than 26. Must be single (unattached), Extrovert & Outgoing, Liberated but with good moral values. Willing & able to travel anytime locally and abroad.

APPLY in person with your comprehensive resumé, 2x2 photo & typewritten application to:

CONCORD CAPITAL RESOURCES INTL
28/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center
Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
(1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Nov. 26-29 only)
Applicant is expected to come in their Business Attire.
No Slacks or Pants please.

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ded
Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst

The German Development Service/DED is a personnel cooperating agency with office in Makati City

Is inviting applicants for the position of

"(Junior) Accountant" who is responsible to:
- Perform all accounting tasks of InWent and DED
- Process the liquidations of projects
- Prepare bank transactions

Required Entry Qualification
BS Accountancy or comparable qualification

Professional Experience
At least 3 years of professional working experience in a similar position

Other Qualifications
- Experience with IT-based accounting programs
- Good working knowledge of modern telecommunication systems and MS Office
- Language skills (English and preferably German)

Please e-mail your application and CV not later than November 29, 2007 to ded@ded.ph

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FOR HIRING
HR PERSONNEL

- male/female, 23 to 30 yrs. old
- proficient in oral & written communication
- graduate of BS Psychology
- at least 1 year experience in the following:
  - payroll
  - monitoring of staff
  - recruitment
  - labor matters
- with pleasing personality

Interested applicants may apply in person with your resume (latest picture) & other credentials to:

HALINA HOTEL
54 Libertad St., Pasay City
(in front of DFA)
Look for Jasmin Nuñez

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

BRANCH PERSONNEL

FOR A REPUTABLE LAUNDRY SHOP

- FEMALE, 26 TO 40 YEARS OLD
- PREFERABLY A RESIDENT OF SAN JUAN, STA. MESA, QC, MANILA OR NEARBY AREAS
- AT LEAST 2nd YEAR COLLEGE LEVEL
- MUST BE WILLING TO OPERATE MACHINES
- MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN IRONING CLOTHES

APPLY PERSONALLY AT
#9 Puray Street, Brgy. Santol, Quezon City 1110
(at the back of SOEN, Araneta Avenue)
Cell No. 09052920429
MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9 AM TO 12 NN ONLY
or
SEND YOUR RESUMÉ TO: laundryads@yahoo.com

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Start the New Year, with a New Career.
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Build a successful career at NetSuite, where opportunities for growth know no boundaries...

The future of Accounting is in technology... Join our driven Customer Support Teams.

Payroll Support Specialists

Responsibilities

•Maintain broad and technical knowledge of product and services.
•Greet customers in a courteous, friendly, and professional manner using agreed upon procedures.
•Listen attentively to customer needs and concerns; demonstrate empathy.
•Clarify customer requirements; probe for and confirm understanding of requirements or problem.
•Meet customer requirements through first contact resolution. Minimize escalation to Tier-II support.
•Confirm customer understanding of the solution and provide additional customer education as needed.
•Prepare complete and accurate work and update customer file.
•Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
•Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
•Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/or improve productivity.
•Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
•Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
•Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
•Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.

Qualifications

•Experience on end to end Payroll process, preferably US Payroll.
•Basic knowledge on **US Payroll** Taxes and 401K.
•Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles.
•Knowledge of Payroll or ERP systems is a must.
•Experience in a call center (technical/customer) organization providing telephone or email support or relative experience in a BPO is a plus.
•Knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is desirable.
•Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
•Strong personality, highly enthusiastic and service oriented individual
•Troubleshooting skills.

Support Specialists (Web-ecommerce/CRM)

Responsibilities

• Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of our constantly expanding and evolving set of products and services through internal training and self-training
• Utilize the available resources and tools to provide high quality Tier 1 technical support over the phone and via email for designated areas of the product
• Document the work done in our internal case/issue management system using predefined procedures
• Maintain high customer satisfaction through the use of proper phone etiquette, active listening and customer service skills
• Work in a dynamic team environment to ensure customer requests are rerouted accurately and efficiently to the right resource.
• Communicate customer-reported issues with our Quality Assurance and Development teams using established guidelines.
• Design creative solutions to non-standard problems and modify existing solutions to resolve non-routine problems.

Qualifications

• Solid experience in developing or troubleshooting web services using major platform like Java /. NET or solid experience with Javascript and HTML is a must
• Experience with Web Design, Web Development and general internet infrastructure is strongly recommended.
• Experience with any ASP/SaaS software or any ERP, CRM and Web/E-Commerce is a definite plus
• A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
• Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is recommended.
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills
• Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
• Demonstrated troubleshooting skills. Superb analytical and critical thinking skills
• Ability to think "outside-the-box"

Candidates must be willing to work in graveyard shifts, weekends and/or holidays.

Bilingual Support Specialists – English + Nihonggo, Mandarin or Spanish

business tools and solutions that matter most to global customers...

Work alongside our highly skilled and professional Technical Teams.

Implementation Consultants

Responsibilities

•Responsible for managing clients in post-sale environments i.e. the delivery of implementation services for customers of NetSuite. Working with NetSuite Sales and the balance of the Professional Services Team, this position will quickly assess customer implementation needs, develop innovative plans to solve their problems, and implement these plans to the customer's satisfaction.
•The successful candidate must have a passion for business and the technologies that run it, as well as, advanced analytical problem solving acumen. Working with aggressive timelines and a full project portfolio is required.
•Work will be done over the phone with customers across North America and on **North American business working hours.**

Qualifications

•Candidates for the Implementation Consultant role should have many of the following qualifications:
•2 to 5 years experience in systems applications consulting, either internally via an IT organization or externally with a consulting firm or software provider.
•Solid experience in change management and Business Process Mapping in support and / or in conjunction with a major IS initiative.
•Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to ERP, CRM and E-commerce.
•Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to Accounting (Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Invoicing), Sales Force Management (Opportunity, Proposal, Sales Orders, Forecasting, territory management and Quotas), Inventory Management (Purchasing and Fulfillment) as well as support (Cases Management and Territory Management).
•Exposure to less ubiquitous, more esoteric business practices such as Accounting (Payroll, Expense Tracking, Multi-currency, and commissions), Sales Force Automation (Returns, Team Selling), Marketing Campaigns and Web presence (Net or E-Commerce, Shopping carts, Website layout).
•Successful candidates should have demonstrated experience in translating customer business requirements into workable world class business solutions, either as a software solution or a re-engineering initiative.
•Candidates should have solid client management skills and be able to work with customers to execute on an implementation plan.
•Experience with software in an ASP environment is a plus as is any experience with financial accounting, customer management, and sales force automation software. Previous consulting experience with the following applications is a solid predictor of success as a PSM at NetSuite: QuickBooks, Great Plains, SalesForce.com, Upshot, ACT, Goldmine, MAS 90, Siebel, Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards.
•Working knowledge of and experience using XML, JavaScript, HTML, Crystal and SQL is desirable.
•Experience with designing and writing html, Java and Java script for an e-commerce website.

Sr. NT System Administrator

Responsibilities

•The position that we need to fill is for a full time Sr. NT System Administrator. This person will be responsible for providing desktop and server support primarily to NetSuite's Philippine employees and occasionally to NetSuite employees located in the Pacific Rim. This position requires **24/7 availability**. The most critical aspect of this position is the ability to complete IT projects and tasks independently.
•Required knowledge, skills, and abilities

Qualifications

•The candidate will need, at a minimum, 3 years experience as a system administrator, working in a Microsoft Windows environment.
•Proficient in Windows 2000 and 2003 Server technology.
•Knowledge of Exchange e-mail administration, Windows servers, VPN, and tape backup technology is also critical. Experience in setting up an Exchange email server from start to finish is a plus.
•Proficient in Microsoft Active Directory.
•Familiarity with various backup software packages (Veritas preferred).
•MCSE NT/2000/2003 preferred.
•Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships at all levels.
•This person will need to be located within a 45 mile radius of the NetSuite office in the Philippines.
•Examples of work
  •Plans, documents, and communicates all changes to server software minimizing customer disruption.
  •Installs, tests, and implements server operating system upgrades and enhancements.
  •Responds to emergency calls relating to server and desktop performance, diagnosis of problems, and resolving issues.
  •Maintains data integrity and security of desktop and server software.
  •Create system images for desktops, laptops, and servers.
  •Build desktop and laptops systems from an image.
  •Ability to diagnose and resolve desktop and mobile computing issues.
  •Monitor Error logs and provide routine maintenance to mission critical servers.
  •Research and recommend security solution for desktop computers and servers.
  •Procure office computers and computer related equipment.
  •Evaluate, install, debug, audit, maintain, and document Windows server farms.
  •Be a part of an on call rotation that does **24x7** monitoring, and be accessible via pager and/or cell phone.
  •Take training courses that align with corporate objectives to bridge skill gaps and learn new relevant technologies.
  •Ability to express oneself clearly and communicate well, both written and verbally, within a passionate technical team.
•**Technical Musts:** Windows NT/2000/2003 architecture, implementation, monitoring, troubleshooting Active Directory Administration Exchange Server Administration OS Protocols/Applications (DNS, DHCP)Telecom Experience;
•**Soft Musts:** Excellent Communication, Prioritization, Teamwork, Working Independently

Data Migration Consultants

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of this position is to assist customers with the migration of data from enterprise systems into NetSuite.
Day to day activities will involve providing customers advice on the data migration process, rationalizing data from multiple enterprise systems and extracting and merging the data into NetSuite.

Qualifications

•A minimum of 2 years work experience
•An undergraduate degree in mathematics, computer science or engineering is preferred but a liberal arts degree followed by at least 2 years training in Computer Technologies (an NIIT type course) is sufficient.
•Note: This is not a programming position. There may be occasional programming work but the bulk of the work is in data migration using NetSuite's existing tools.
•Strong communication skills
•Experience with the data migration process (extraction, transformation and loading) and a good understanding of xml and csv file formats.
•At least one year programming experience with either C# or VB.Net or Java
•Experience with the data architecture and data formats of popular SMB applications (QB, Sage, Great Plains, Goldmine and sfdc.com) is desirable but not mandatory.

For Practice Manager (Implementation Team) and Team Lead (Data Migration Team) – strong leadership skills are required; at least 7 and 5 years hands on supervisory experience, respectively.

Associate Training Consultant

Responsibilities

This role will deliver web-based training on the functional aspects of the NetSuite application in the areas of CRM, ERP and Ecommerce via our web conferencing software. This position will also develop eLearning modules in the same subject areas to provide on-demand, self-paced training solutions. The Associate Training Consultant will learn and understand the training agendas and learning objectives for each area by topic including:

- Dashboards and Basic Usability
- Searches and Reports
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable
- Inventory Management
- Project Management
- Sales Force Automation
- Customer Service and Support
- Marketing Automation
- Ecommerce Basics
- Customization Basics

The Associate Training Consultant will deliver a variety of these topic-based, end-user and administrator sessions to customers looking for specialized training in an online capacity. In addition, they will learn all relevant aspects of current and new product functionality to ensure ongoing improvement of product knowledge, training and presentation skills.

Qualifications

- Preferably 2-3 years experience specializing in Training & Development or equivalent in a corporate setting
- Demonstrated ability in adult learning and classroom management
- Highly people-oriented, flexible, patient and organized
- Self-motivated, analytical , resourceful and creative
- Possesses strong listening and leadership skills
- Possesses exceptional presentation and facilitation skills
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- Must demonstrate good attitude and ability to be a team player who can work independently or with small teams
- Can easily adapt to a changing environment and is able to work with minimum supervision
- Must be able to work on a flexible/graveyard schedule
- Proficient in MS Office - Excel (advanced), Word, PowerPoint and Outlook
- Graduate of Accounting, Psychology, Communication Arts or equivalent college degree
- Open to work in NA hours

NETSUITE

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manila_jobs@netsuite.com
Please follow format **<job title> <name of newspaper> <date DD-MONTH-YYYY of application>** in your subject heading

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At NetSuite, we believe in ONE SYSTEM. NO LIMITS.

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ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

The ICRC Delegation to the Philippines is looking for qualified candidates to fill our vacancies for:

Water & Habitat Field Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

He/She will work directly under the supervision of the WatHab Delegate and is responsible for implementing water, sanitation and general construction improvement projects on detention centers in the Philippines.

Upon the request of the visiting detention teams who identified prisons with water, sanitation and construction deficiencies, the WH Field Engineer will perform technical assessments giving a situational descriptions of:

- Living areas and conditions (e.g.: available surface for sleeping and exercising – pop./m2, roofing, ventilation, etc.),
- Water supply (i.e.: quality, quantity, access, storage),
- Evacuation of solid waste and sewage,
- Food storage and preparation (e.g.: fuel and stoves),
- Vector related diseases and control (e.g.: identify main vector insects and pests with potential negative affect on health such as rodents, mosquitoes, scabies mite, etc.)

Required Profile:

The position of a WatHab Field Engineer calls for a person qualified and experienced in the field of engineering to implement water, sanitation and general construction improvement projects in detention centers of the Philippines.

He/She must have/be:

- At least three years of practical experience in construction and engineering
- University degree preferably in civil engineering and/ or any field related to water, sanitation and construction
- Available to travel frequently to different parts of the Philippines for varying period
- Interest and work experience with humanitarian organizations would be an asset
- Fluent in spoken and written English and Tagalog
- Well-versed in writing concise memos, project proposals and progress reports
- Able to produce precise technical sketches of existing conditions and of proposed projects
- Familiar in managing the different aspects of the implementation of a project such as design, budget estimates, finances, logistics, time scheduling, writing bill of quantities and cost estimates
- Good computer skills
- Negotiating skills with contractors and suppliers of materials and equipment
- Coordination with local and central authorities and stakeholders
- Good team spirit
- Valid driving license and excellent driving skills
- Good working relations and ability to work in an international and multi-disciplinary team

Cashier/Accountant

Main Responsibilities:

The Cashier/Accountant works under the supervision of the Administrator providing financial and analytical reports.

He/She:

- Handles bookkeeping of the delegation
- Performs daily cash control
- Processes financial data on computer, provides end of month closing, and reports independently.
- Takes part in cash flow management under supervision
- Respect of ICRC financial procedures and guidelines

Desired Skills & Qualifications:

- University degree preferably in business administration, accountancy and/or any related courses
- 3 years work experience in similar function in an international company/organization
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Good analytical and computer skills
- Capacity to integrate and implement ICRC policies and procedures
- Good working relations and ability to work in an international and multi-disciplinary team
- Experienced in any accounting software

Field Officers

Main Responsibilities:

The Field Officer will assist the delegate in running field activities mainly for Luzon. He/She:

- Participates in the assessment and monitoring of the humanitarian situation in the area and general economic/security situation;
- Assists in the implementation of relief and assistance activities;
- Supports the ICRC in promoting and disseminating the principles of International Humanitarian Law, as well as in monitoring its respect;
- Assists in establishing and maintaining contacts with various actors, including individual beneficiaries, humanitarian organizations, local authorities, and the Philippines National Red Cross.
- Experienced in public speaking and/or training environments

Desired Skills & Qualifications:

- University degree or Solid professional experience in similar fields of activities, experience in humanitarian work; experience as trainer/ disseminator/facilitate or highly desirable.
- Fluency in spoken and written English, Tagalog and Visayan.
- Good knowledge of computer and windows package (MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint)
- Good communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Well-organized and analytical, able to plan work assignments, evaluate and integrate information from different sources and assess situations;
- Good sense of responsibility and ability to work also independently;
- Able to work under pressure and cope with stress, also in insecure areas.
- Valid driver's license and excellent driving skills.

Assets:
- Previous experience working within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and/or other international humanitarian organisations,
- Strongly motivated to humanitarian work

What we offer:
Good compensation, interesting and rewarding work, humanitarian and international environment

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume, recent NBI clearance and explain in their covering letter their motivation and interest in the position as well as salary expectation to the address below not later than **10 December 2007** to:

The Administrator, ICRC, 5F Erechem Bldg., Salcedo cor. VA Rufino Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City Or by e-mail to: icrc_manila@yahoo.com.ph

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

MOTOR ACE PHILIPPINES, INC.

IMMEDIATE HIRING FOR CAVITE & BATANGAS EXPANSIONS

2 BRANCH MANAGERS

Qualifications:
- Male, at least 25 but not over 30 years old
- Must have leadership potentials
- Graduate of any four or five-year course preferably business related or Engineering
- Must know how to drive a motorcycle & 4-wheel vehicle & with valid Driver's license
- Knowledge of the motorcycle industry is an advantage but not a must
- Must have background in sales, marketing & collection
- Computer literate
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Cavite or Batangas

3 MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC

Qualifications:
- Male, at least 21 but not over 30 years old
- A graduate of automotive from a TESDA accredited training school or its equivalent
- Knows how to PDI & repair motorcycles
- Must know how to drive a motorcycle & with valid driver's license.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Cavite or Batangas

2 BOOKKEEPERS

Qualifications:
- Female, single/married, at least 21 but not over 30 years old
- With Pleasing Personality
- A graduate of business related course preferably Accountancy or Management
- Knows how to deal with different kinds of people
- Computer Literate
- Knowledge in motorcycle industry is an advantage but not a must.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Cavite or Batangas

Qualified applicants may hand in their application letter, resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 pictures to:

Ms. Belen C. Baring
Ace Philippines, Inc.
Joetilde Building, Basak, Mandaue City
Tel. No. (032) 420-7785

Mr. Jemuel Batingal/Mr. Avito Italio
Motor Ace Philippines, Inc.
Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Brgy. Niog 1, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel. # (046) 417-8658 / (046) 870-3433

A premium Christian preschool in Jakarta is hiring teachers to join our committed, creative and energetic team!

Minimum diploma or a relevant degree in the field with minimum 3 years experience.

Excellent communication skills with children and parents a must. Attractive contract for 1-2 years.

Positions to apply for:

Class teachers, Speech & Drama Teacher, Creative Arts Teacher and Occupational Therapist

Interview in Manila on the 10-12 December 2007.

Contact Mega
Email: **mpandia@hotmail.com** Tel. **+622153664777**

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Emirates Airline is a dynamic, multicultural organisation with ambitious global growth plans. We are looking for committed and motivated service-oriented stewardesses to join our Cabin Crew team of over 100 nationalities based in Dubai - the modern, cosmopolitan city of the future.

We offer exciting career opportunities and lifestyle benefits that include accommodation and a tax-free salary.

All applicants must secure their Emirates 'Online Reference Number' (ORN) through www.emiratesgroupcareers.com and submit this to IPAMS along with your resume, educational and employment credentials, and two 2x2 photographs before Monday 10th December. Alternatively, input your ORN when applying at www.ipams.com or just e-mail your resume to resumes.el@ipams.com. Suitable candidates will be short listed and contacted to meet with us for the selection process in Manila.

IT Professionals for New Zealand

Expressions of interest to migrate **required** from **IT professionals** with Tertiary degrees or Internationally recognized certificates and/or a minimum of 2 years relevant experience

Java/J2EE Senior Developers
C# .NET Microsoft Senior Developers
Unix/Linux Systems Administrators
Cisco Network Consultants
Senior Engineers

Successful candidates will be **interviewed in Manila** on **December 8, 2007** for pathways to New Zealand.

For your personal invitation and further information send your comprehensive detailed resume to
info@imeets.co.nz
on or before December 3, 2007

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Inquire at 897-8808 loc 514.

A premiere Cavite resort is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions:

MAKATI ASSIGNMENT:

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
- Certified Public Accountant
- Minimum 5 years experience in finance and accounting with strong internal control focus.
- Excellent leadership and organizational skills.
- Exhibited expertise in cash management.

BUSINESS ANALYST
- Degree in Business or related field.
- Minimum 3 years experience in marketing & business analysis.
- Knowledge of hospitality and real estate industries preferred.
- Proficient in Excel data analysis. SQL preferred.

CAVITE ASSIGNMENT:

PERSONNEL OFFICER
- Degree in Human Resources / Industrial Relations.
- Experience in personnel administration, labor relations, recruitment, training, compensation & benefits.

COST CONTROLLER
- Degree in Accountancy or related course.
- Minimum 2 years experience in cost controllership.

CIVIL WORKS SUPERVISOR
- Degree in Civil Engineering.
- Can render perspective and shop drawings.
- Minimum 2 years experience supervising others.

AIRCON & REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN
- Graduate of 2-year vocational AC / Refrigeration course.
- Minimum 2 years experience.

Email detailed resume with photo to
hrd@caylabne.com.ph

Formerly Salon De Orient (Timog Branch)
is in need of the following:

Salon Manager and Marketing - Service Specialist

- Male / Female (30 years old and above)
- Graduate of BS Marketing / Business Management or other business courses.
- At least 2–3 years experience working in a Salon, Spa or related services.
- Has a good working knowledge of Salon methodology (hair dressing, coloring, up dos for different occasions, etc.)
- Knowledgeable in product development, promotion, marketing and research is an advantage.

Marketing Staff

- Male / Female (20 years old and above).
- College Level / Degree in BS Marketing / Business Management or other related courses.
- Smart, results-oriented, pleasing personality and with good communication skills.

Please submit comprehensive resumé with recent photo, NBI, Police and Baranggay Clearances to:

Room #7, #5 First St., Kapitolyo, Pasig City
For information, contact **0920-6668869.**

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY WATER DISTRICT
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

URGENTLY NEEDS

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	SALARY
Senior Engineer A – Bachelor's Degree in Sanitary Engineering – Registered Sanitary Engineer (R.A. 1080) – With one year of relevant experience & four hours of relevant training	16	P 15,508.00 + allowances
Engineer A – Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering – Registered Civil Engineer (R.A. 1080) – With one year of relevant experience & four hours of relevant training	14	P 13,801.00 + allowances
Clerk Processor B & Storekeeper C – 18 to 25 years old – Completed at least two years studies in college – Civil Service Eligible (at least sub-professional)	06	P 8,367.00 + allowances

Apply in person at: **SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY WATER DISTRICT**
Block 19, Lot 9, Road 1, Minuyan
City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

Bring comprehensive resumé and handwritten letter of application.

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET.
Every Sunday with the INQUIRER
JOB Market

212, 2/F Rivergate Commercial Complex
49-A Mango Ave., Cebu City 6000 Philippines

Talahome, Inc. is an international hotel furnishing company based in Cebu with offices in Macau, China, Indonesia and Singapore.

We are looking for top caliber, dynamic and output-oriented individuals who can be a part of our company.

❖ 3D Architectural/furniture Artist
- Must be a graduate of BS Architecture or Interior Design
- Minimum of 2 years experience in preparing 3D Visualization (Interior Rendering preferred)
- Advanced skills in 3D Studio Max 8 and VRay as modeling and rendering tool
- Must know how to use AutoCAD for 2D Detail Drawing and 3D Modeling
- Knows how to model furniture in Max or CAD such as sofa, chair, bed, table, etc.
- Proficient in creating and editing Texture and Materials in Photoshop
- Must have a very keen eye for details (*color, scale and proportion, shades and shadows*)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- A very reliable team player and can work with less supervision
- Able to follow through with the instructions provided
- Candidates must be willing to work overtime to meet tight deadlines
- Willing to travel abroad – China, Macau, Singapore and Indonesia
- Email sample images of best work
- Provide links to online portfolio, *if available*

❖ Draftsman (Code: Dr)
- Experienced in designing and detailing of furniture and can draft in 2D using AutoCAD and Photoshop software
- Experienced in designing and detailing of furniture and can draft in 2D & 3D modeling in AutoCAD, Photoshop and./or 3Ds Max software
- Experienced in designing, knowledgeable in furniture detailing and has an architectural background (architectural graduate, architectural drafting experience)
- Experienced in designing, knowledgeable in furniture detailing and has an architectural background
- Can do 3D modeling and colored 3D rendering of architectural interior/exterior and furniture
- Organized and can follow instructions
- Send sample works

❖ Senior Architect Draftsman (Code: SADr)
- At least 5 years experience in high rise building and/or construction
- BS Architecture graduate
- Knowledge in 2D/3D CAD drawing
- Must be good in sketch drawing and detailed construction drawing
- Has a sufficient background in furniture drawing
- Can communicate good English
- Organized and can follow instructions
- Has a high threshold on pressure and stress
- Can lead a team of draftsman
- Send sample works

❖ Senior Furniture Draftsman (Code: SFDr)
- At least 5 years experience in furniture factory
- Knows how to detail upholstery, case goods, lighting and rattan drawing
- Must be good in free hand sketching
- Can communicate good English
- Organized and can follow instructions
- Has a high threshold tolerance on pressure and stress
- Send sample works

❖ Furniture Designer (Code: FD)
- Must possess in depth background in product design
- Has modern sensibility
- Innovative with good feel for materials, details and proportion
- Must be good in free hand sketching
- Can communicate good English
- Organized and can follow instructions
- Has a high threshold tolerance on pressure and stress
- Send sample works

❖ Product Development Manager (PrdM)
- Will be based in Houjie, Dongguan, China
- Experienced in product development with a good eye for design
- Sensitive to style, proportion, details, upholstery and finishing
- Understands furniture construction and able to draw
- Good organizational, written and oral communication skills
- Can interface with designers and clients
- Able to work directly with Filipino and Chinese staff to develop products
- Analytical, can work with less supervision and can follow through instructions

❖ General Manager (GM)
- Oversee administration, finance, HR, purchasing and other operational aspects of the company
- Minimum of 5 years in a senior position in a professional company handling administration or operations
- Good planning and implementation skills and is proactive
- Has a good resolve when faced with issues, administrative concerns and is a reliable decision-maker
- Able to develop programs and strategies and able to implement them effectively
- Good interpersonal, communication, organizational and leadership skills

❖ HR Assistant (Code: HR)
- BS/AB Psychology Graduate
- Has been practicing in HR department for at least two years
- Knowledgeable in Labor Laws, Training and Recruitment
- Sensible and has good organizational skills with excellent communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

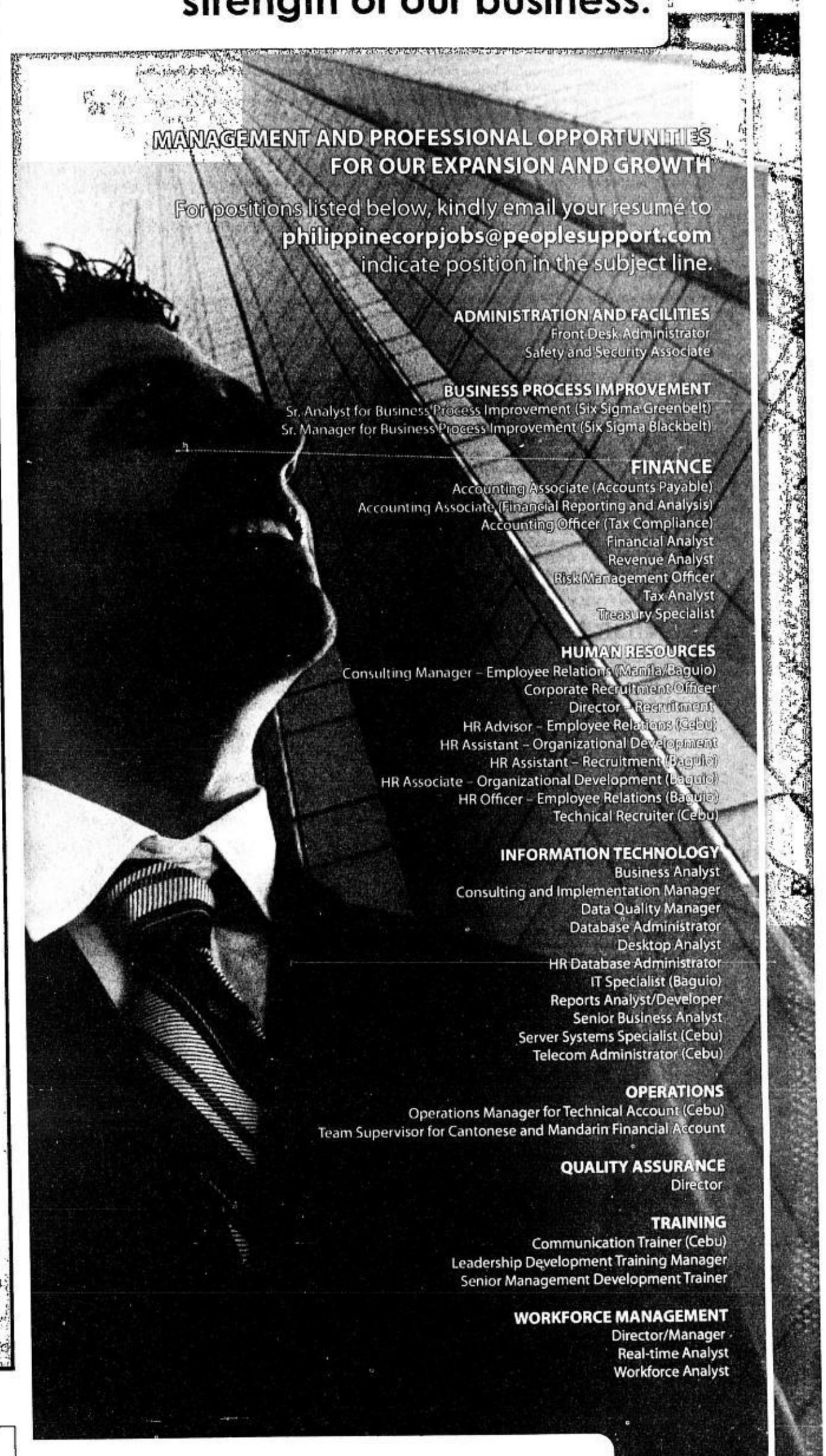
❖ Business Development Manager (Code: BDM)
- At least 5 years experience in related field
- Experience in business planning and analysis
- Experience in preparation of budget and forecast
- Should be able to assist the principal in developing programmes for new projects, such as real estate, pro-forma and organizing data into reports with high level of financial analyses capabilities
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Analytical, organized and can work with less supervision

❖ Software Developer (Code: SD)
- Minimum one year experience with VB.Net, Java and/or J Developer
- Knowledgeable in Oracle
- Good communication, strong technical, analytical skills
- Must be a team player, possesses a good attitude and self-disciplined
- Experienced in full program development and can perform basic troubleshooting of end-user application problems

Qualified applicants will be receiving good salary and benefits package.

Walk-in applicants are not entertained. Previous applicants need not apply.
Email Resume with recent 2x2 photo to: **hr.talahome@gmail.com** along with sample works.
Or mail to: **Talahome Inc.**
Suite 212, 2/F, Rivergate Commercial Complex, 49-A, Mango Ave., Cebu City
Telephone: 032-2383261 or 63.

We build your future on the strength of our business.



PeopleSupport is currently in search for eRep Professionals in the following fields:

Banking & Finance
IT Telco / Networking
Sales (Inbound & Outbound)
Transcription
Travel

Makati City
PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am to 3:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square,Jacinto Extension
Monday to Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

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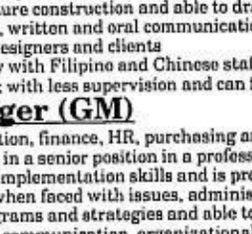

Leading the Way to a Healthier World

We are a leading global nutritional and pharmaceutical company and offer compensation and benefits package above industry level to the successful candidate.

Q.A. Specialist (CODE: QAS)

Functions:
- Recommends final disposition on Finished Goods released through complete review of the batch manufacturing or importation protocol and other pertinent records in a timely manner and in compliance with satisfactory documentation practices.
- Provides technical inputs, data and reports to the Pharmaceutical Compliance Auditor and/or Pharmaceutical QA Manager on quality assurance aspects involved in the manufacture or importation of pharmaceutical products.
- Supports the Packaging Development Section as an alternate, as necessary.
- Participates and supports the routine audit activities.
- Assists the department in the implementation of ISO 9000 in the company.

Qualifications:
- With Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy or Chemical Engineering; licensed
- At least 5 years experience in quality assurance (CGMP, documentation, inspection or analysis), production or in product research and development in the pharmaceutical industry
- With experience in auditing function, ISO 9000 certification and in packaging development of pharmaceutical products
- Computer literate

Qualified applicants are requested to send their updated resumé to the given postal/email address below not later than **November 30, 2007**:

Attention: HR Department
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.
2236 Chino Roces Ave.
1231 Makati City
Code: QAS
email address: recruitment@wyeth.com

Previous applicants need not apply. We will only reply to qualified applicants.

Our prospective principal in Australia,

SACAREN MINERAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

urgently needs the following:

❑ (1) GENERAL MANAGER OPERATIONS / SENIOR MINE ENGINEER

- Sacaren Mineral Holdings Limited, an ASX listed company, is progressing its definite feasibility study ("DFS") into the commencement of gold mining operations, located at South Laverton approximately 120 km. north east of Kalgoorlie. The company owns a modern 2.4 mtpa milling facility, associated infrastructure and is currently undertaking regional exploration.
- We are currently seeking a GM (Operations)/ Senior Mining Engineer with extensive experience in open pit gold mining, feasibility studies, Large-scale project management and contract negotiation. Suitable qualifications, expertise in mining software and methodologies are essential.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- Managing the DFS, bringing the project to final decision status,
- Overseeing production start-up and managing all the company's pre-development and mining operations.
- Assisting the managing Director in assessing new acquisition opportunities.
- Based in Perth, this position has outstanding long term potential.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM at the Tower Club, 33rd floor Philamlife Tower Club Corp. 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ (3) EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Sacaren Mineral Holdings is a dynamic gold exploration company which last year purchased a large tenement holding and the Carosue gold treatment plant and mining camp, situated to north east of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Sacaren is completing a feasibility study, based on several previously mined and un-mined gold deposits. It is also carrying out "grass roots" exploration on highly prospective tenement holding with a view to re-commencing gold mining as soon as possible.

Gold mining ceased two years ago, with the Carosue gold treatment plant placed on care and maintenance at that time. Sacaren has recently purchased additional tenements and gold deposits at Wallbrook, near Carosue, and is in the process of adding these to the feasibility study and exploration budget.

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects of field of exploration with the support of the Sacaren Team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of flied equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- *Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM at the Tower Club, 33rd floor Philamlife Tower Club Corp. 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines. Please wear smart casual attire.*

❑ (3) SENIOR EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

- You will be responsible for researching project area, target generation and supervising the implementation of all aspect of field with the support of the Sacaren team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of flied equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10 AM at the Tower Club, 33rd floor Philamlife Tower Club Corp. 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ (3) FIELD TECHNICIAN

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects field exploration logistics, as well as geochemical sampling, surveying, drill-site technical assistance, and geochemical support duties. This challenging role requires relevant exploration field experience, familiarity with geological concepts enthusiasm for out door work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of field equipment techniques and basic computing packages. You will report to the field supervisor.
- You will be an integral part of a small team. Working with geological staff and external consultants and contractors as required. The Sacaren team approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interest and skills.
- You will be initially based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie.
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM at the Tower Club, 33rd floor Philamlife Tower Club Corp. 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines. Please wear smart casual attire.

❑ BOILERMAKERS / WELDERS

- A Strong understanding of Occupational Health and Safety Policies and working procedures
- The ability to interpret work instructions and technical drawings common to the trade (3D,Interpretor)
- Demonstrate experience in welding (90%Mig, Arc, & Tig)
- Fabricate products by selecting appropriate equipment tools and methods to methods to maximize productivity.
- Takes measurement and reading using instruments of appropriate accuracy to ensure pre-determined quality standards are achieved.
- A minimum of two years post –trade experience would be ideal
- A background in sheet metal and/or bodybuilding would be ideal in this role.
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM, at No.6 San Agustin St. Rosalia Compound Culiat Quezon City.

❑ MACHINISTS

- Working in a high volume/repetition environment these role will be set , edit and operate CNC Lathes with Auto Chuck and fitted with One touch IGF-X controllers
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM at No. 6 San Agustin St. Rosalia Compound, Culiat Quezon City

❑ FITTERS / MECHANICS

- The role will be supporting the manufacture of RC rotary drilling equipment to safely and efficiently produce components and product to pre-determined quality standard.
- The main duties will include maintenance construction and repair of drill rigs. Imperative to this role is to safely maintain service and provide technical support to the manufacture of drill rigs and ancillary equipment.
- To ensure safe and efficient utilization of resources. This will include the completion of maintenance records, logs and documentation as required ensuring statutory requirements are maintained for respective equipment. Work will be carried out in a workshop environment and (on the rare occasion) may require remote field locations for a period of time (as mutually agreed)
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM at No. 6 San Agustin St. Rosalia Compound, Culiat Quezon City

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during the interview. Interested applicants may email their detailed resume to rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com or fax to (632) 9520531

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Research Analyst

(Sell and Buy Sides)
US$ 40-70K per annum (tax free)
+ Bonus + Other benefits

Securities and Investment Co. BSC (SICO) is a securities house based out of Bahrain offering a selective range of investment banking services on a regional basis with particular emphasis on the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. SICO was incorporated in Bahrain in 1995 and holds an investment banking license from the Central Bank of Bahrain.

In order to expand our businesses and capabilities, we are looking for well qualified research analysts to join both our sell and buy side research teams. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply their updated resume before 10 Dec 2007.

Job Description The Analyst will undertake detailed and focused sell/buy side research with an institutional focus on his assigned business sectors and companies. The analyst will also work closely with other departments in the organization (corporate finance/ brokerage/investment) on specific projects as required.

Job Profile

- Develop a thorough understanding on the GCC/MENA equity markets and the sectors/companies assigned
- Develop and maintain senior management contacts in assigned companies and interact on a regular basis
- Conduct detailed research (primary and secondary) on the assigned sectors/companies, generate investment ideas and publish detailed initiation reports and updates based on company results/major events (for sell side)
- Interact with clients about investment ideas and participate in road shows, seminars and other related events
- Assist the department in developing / maintaining / updating databases and periodical reports
- Provide training to junior analysts/trainees as and when required.

Candidate Profile

- The analyst should have at least a bachelor degree in economics, business, engineering or related areas from a well known institution.
- Candidates with an MBA and/or CFA charter will be preferred.
- At least 2 years of equity research experience in the investment banking industry
- Cleared at least level I of the CFA program conducted by CFA Institute, USA
- Excellent communication skills (both written and oral English)
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills encompassing finance and related areas of financial investment
- Excellent financial modeling skills and understanding about various valuation approaches and methods
- Familiarity with various research/database platforms (Bloomberg, Reuters etc.)
- Should be confident, hard working, result oriented and a good team player

Send your applications to ***hr@sicobahrain.com***
For more details about the company, please visit www.sico-bahrain.com

بنك استثماري Investment Bank sico

CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Outbound)

QUALIFICATIONS
Excellent spoken English; Female, 21-35 years of age
Confident, Outgoing personality; Preferably college graduate.
Experience will be a definite advantage.

ATTITUDE
Highly self-motivated; A team player.
Hardworking and able to work under pressure.

OUR OFFER
Php 12,500 – Php 18,000.00
Generous bonuses for results; Opportunity for advancement
Wage increase upon regularization.
Excellent working conditions; Full training.
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T: 636-5459 / CP: 0927-6921311
Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

SENIOR ADVERTISING MANAGER

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

The ideal candidate will strategically plan, manage and analyze advertising efforts and budget allocation for retail chain of stores for its Fashion Division; will lead internal and external partners in planning and execution of above-the-line and below-the-line advertising medium; will develop and implement advertising strategies, objectives and measurable tactics that increase sales and enhance brand image.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

- Female, over 30 years of age
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- With 3-5 years work related experience Fashion Advertising, project management preferably in a Retail Industry
- Knowledge of current fashion trends and advertising concepts
- Strong leadership skills and excellent communication skills

Interested parties may send resumes to:

HR - RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
SM Mart, Inc.
SM Corporate Office, Building D
J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex
Pasay City

Or email us at:

Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

Bayan Telecommunications, Inc.
is a leading provider of telecommunications and data services in the Philippines. In Bayan, we strive to make a difference by offering products and services that bring out the best in the lives of Filipinos. We challenge our employees to grow professionally as we improve the lives of our customers, while enjoying their careers is a fun and *kakaiba* way.

Bayan is currently in need of a highly dynamic and self-motivated individuals to fill in the following positions:

Financial Analyst:

Role:

- Will assist the Business Development Head in ensuring new lines of business are properly analyzed and executed within the financial metrics.

Requirements:

- Graduate of Economics / Accounting / Industrial Engineering.
- CFA / CPA is an advantage.
- Experience in doing financial models for long capital projects or financial planning and analysis.
- Involved in doing industry research and financial benchmarking.
- Experience in telecommunications and IT industries is an advantage.
- Willing to travel throughout all business centers of a company across the country or other locations as required.

Interested applicants may send their updated resumés with cover letter to **Recruitment Department,** Bayan Telecommunications, Inc., Bayan Corporate Center, Maginhawa corner Malingap Sts., Teachers Village East, Diliman, Quezon City
Or e-mail it to careers@bayan.com.ph

An Ortigas-based Trading Company is in need of a:

STAFF ASSISTANT

- To be based in Malolos, Bulacan
- Female, age 20-28
- College graduate from a reputable school (business/com sci/related courses)
- Diligent, honest, with a sense of loyalty
- Attractive salary for qualified applicants

Interested parties, e-mail
cascade_ce@yahoo.com.ph
Tel. No. 634-6271 to 74
Yvette / Aubrey

URGENTLY NEEDED:

1. **CIVIL ENGR.**
   W/ LIC MALE/25-35 yrs. old
2. **CADD OPERATOR**
   3D / STUDIO MAXX M/F
3. **SECRETARY / OFFICE STAFF**
   22-26 / F

TEL. NO. 309-8826 • 0927-9599257
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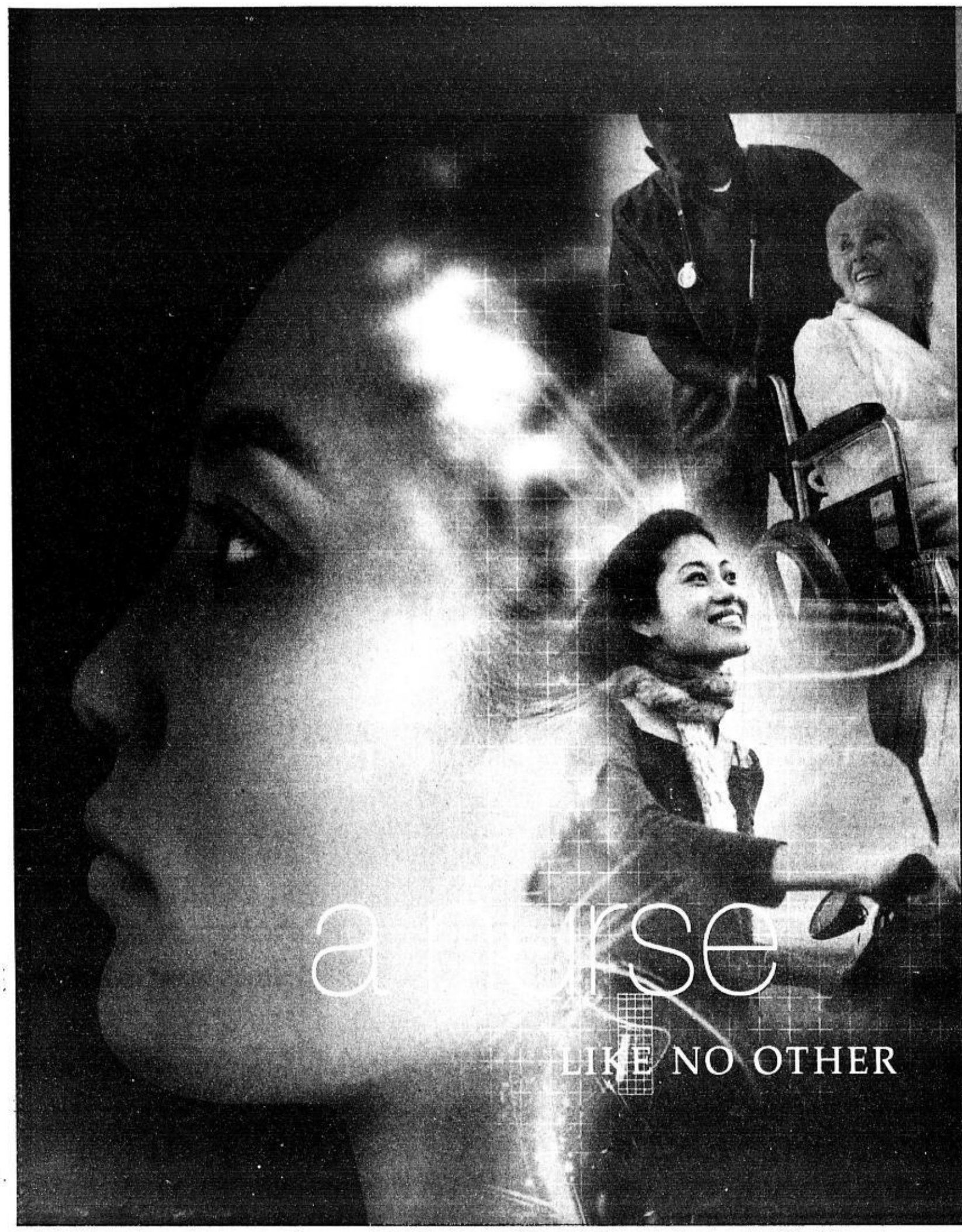


Fresenius Medical Care

CONNECT YOUR FUTURE TO THE GLOBAL LEADER IN DIALYSIS

At FMC Renalcare Corp.. the difference you make is in the relationships you build with patients. Because you're not just providing UltraCare® — our commitment to excellence — you are also an active part of helping patients achieve a healthier lifestyle through individualized care.

For the Nephrology Nurse, FMC Renalcare Corp. presents a world of options and possibilities. Working for the world leader in renal care, you will have the opportunity to be a part of a great organization worldwide. You'll find FMC Renalcare Corp. has a supportive atmosphere that favors the career path and professional growth you choose.

No matter where you are in your career, this is an open invitation to you.

Discover the difference between a job and real job satisfaction at FMC Renalcare Corp.

We have openings for STAFF DIALYSIS NURSES.

NURSING PROFESSIONALS

Preferred candidates must possess:
- Current PRC License
- IV Therapy Certification
- IELTS Passer (preferred)
- A natural caring attitude, dedication, leadership, compassion and exemplary patient care.

All of our nurses will receive initial and continuing intensive training in nephrology nursing, leading to the Fresenius certification program through our very own Fresenius Institute of Dialysis Nursing and Center for Leadership and Professional Development.

You may send your résumé to:
FMC Renalcare Corp.
2257 Don Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1231

Or email your résumé to:
renal.nurse@fmcpi.com

Join Fresenius.
Be a member of our GLOBAL nephrology nursing force and open your door to opportunities....worldwide!

EOE

a nurse LIKE NO OTHER

NOW HIRING
IT SPECIALIST (1)

- College Graduate in Computer Science, Computer Technology, Information Technology or equivalent.
- Minimum of 1 year experience in related field.
- Proficient in Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, Network Topology and Hardware or Software Troubleshooting.
- Can meet deadline and work with minimal supervision and with good communication skills.

Please submit comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture, NBI Clearance, Police Clearance and Baranggay Clearance at **Unit 1208,12th Floor, Tycoon Building, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**. For information, call **910-2827**.

JEN-I
URGENTLY NEEDS

SALES EXECUTIVE
- FEMALE / 30 yrs. old below
- W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY
- COLLEGE GRADUATE OF ANY 4-yr. COURSE
- SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR EXPERIENCE IN SALES
- WILLING TO DO FIELD WORK

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- FEMALE / 30 yrs. old below
- GRADUATE OF ANY COURSE
- CAN WORK WITH MINIMUM SUPERVISION
- WITH ACCOUTING BACKGROUND
- EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY

INTERESTED APPLICANT MAY APPLY PERSONALLY AT C. RAYMUNDO AVE., MAYBUNGA, PASIG CITY. LOOK FOR MS. EDEN CONTRERAS. TEL. # 641-3845 / 46

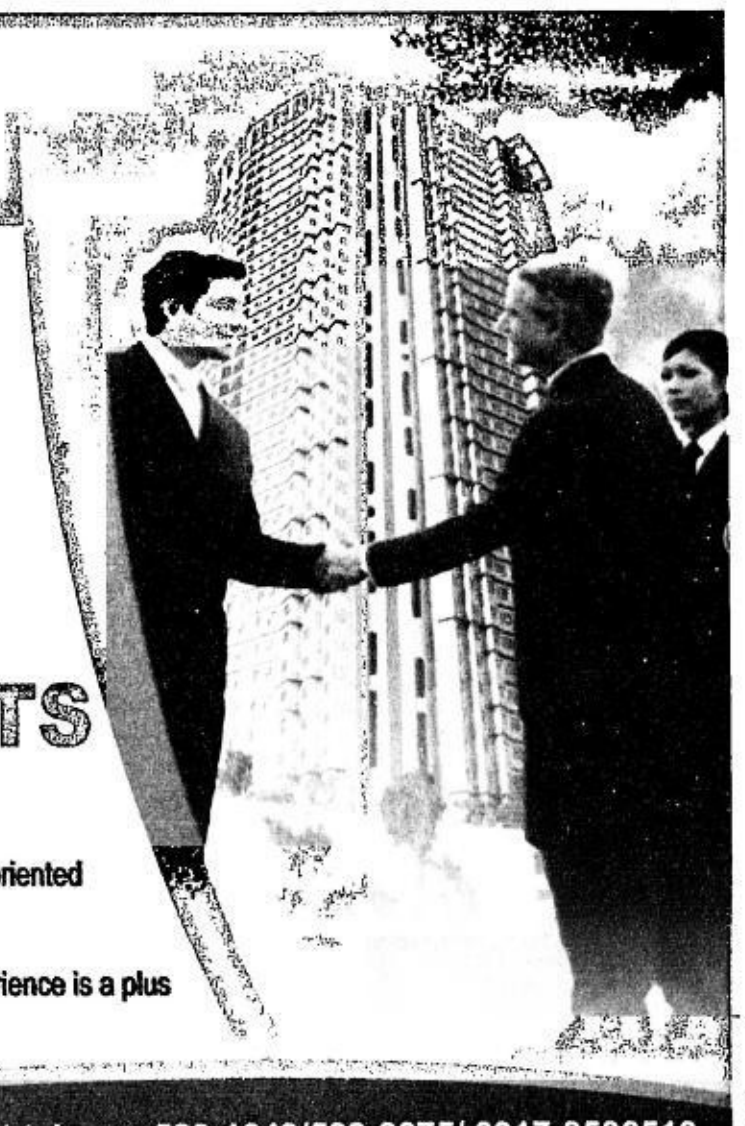
IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!
RADON MARKETING
SALESMAN

- Male
- 21-27 years old
- College level

Interested applicants should bring their resumé and apply personally at

#17 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City.
Beside Parkwoods
Green Executive Village Phase I
Tel. No. 643-3781/643-3729

MOLDEX
Realty Marketing, Inc.



We invite top caliber individuals who can be a part of our dynamic salesforce to fill our need for:

SALES DIRECTORS
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

For those who will qualify we provide:
- Generous incentive package plus basic and advanced training programs

To qualify:
-Must be aggressive, dynamic and result-oriented
-Fluent in English
-Ability to speak Chinese is an advantage
-Background in condominium selling experience is a plus
-Between 24 to 35 years old

Interested parties may get in touch with Ms.Jem Manongsong at tel nos. 528-1249/522-2675/ 0917-8586513 or visit our office at 247 Padre Faura St. cor. Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila every Monday Wednesday, & Friday between 9 AM To 12NN for interview. Please bring a copy of your resume.

MONARC GROUP OF COMPANIES
MONARC FURNISHINGS
NEEDS
PRODUCTION MANAGER
With experience in furniture mfg.

BETTER BODIES GYM
GYM MANAGER
GYM INSTRUCTORS
Apply at Better Bodies Gym
#26 Matalino St., Central District, Q.C.
Bring Bio-data Tel. 9241984 • 435-1835

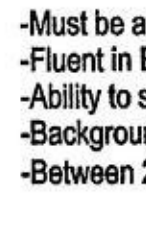
We are looking for an
Account Manager!

Want to come to work in jeans?
Want to work in the advertising / media industry?
Want to be part of the fastest growing medium in the world?

If you have the following requirements, then come join the team!
- Not more than 30 yrs old
- At least 1 yr. experience in Sales, Marketing, or Account Mgt.
- Has worked in a Marketing, Ad Agency or Media Company
- Must be proactive and experienced in client service.

Please send or email your resumé w/ photo @
ActMedia Philippines, Inc.
Unit 1101 Centerpoint Bldg., Julia Vargas Avenue,
Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City
or email at **girlie.medel@actmediaphil.com**

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.



JOB Market
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

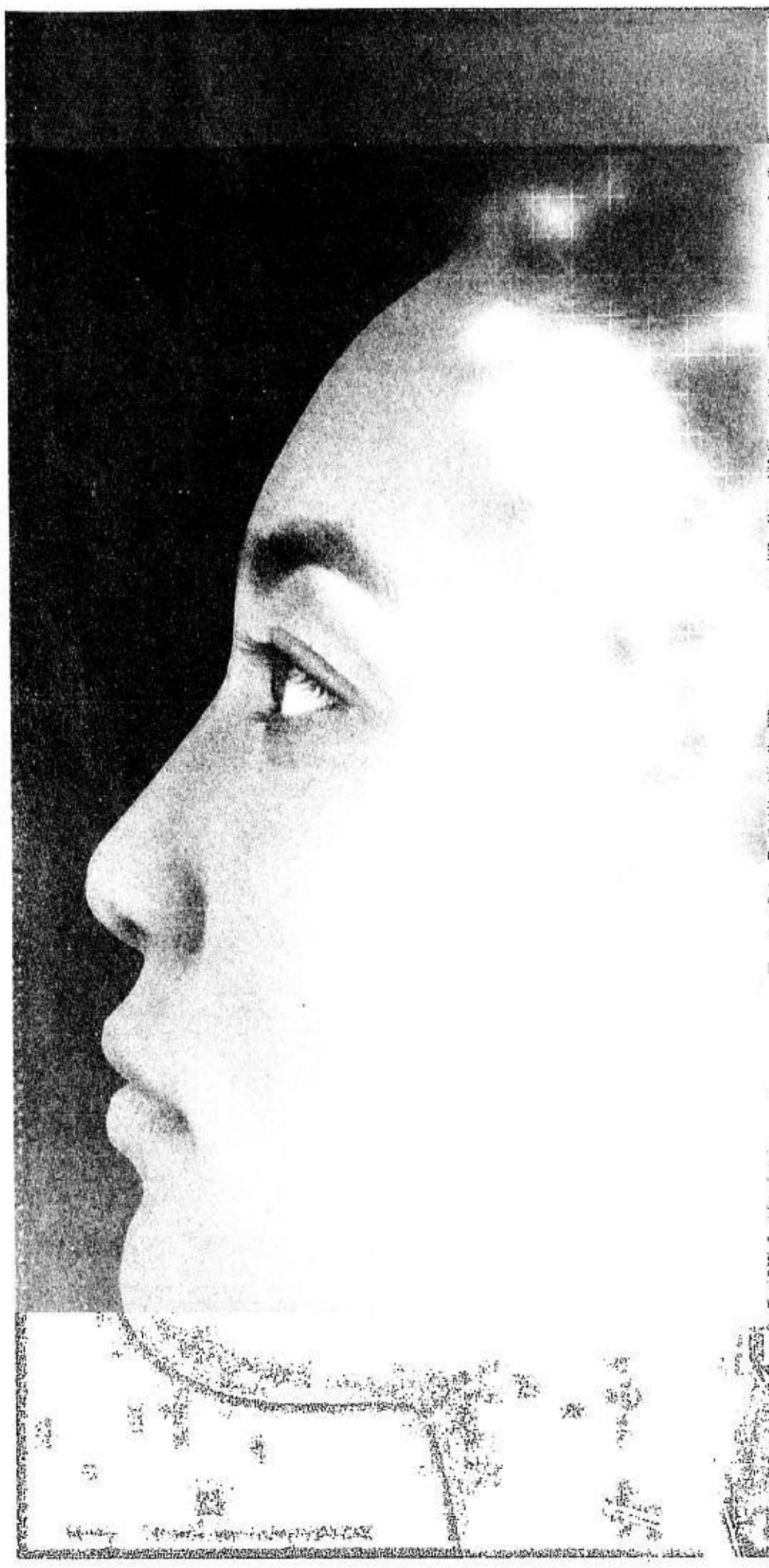
Due to anticipated school growth and expansion for school year 2008-2009, our school is now looking for teachers in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Filipino, CLE and MAPEH.

He/She should have the following qualifications:

- A graduate of BSEEd or BSE-Secondary Education from a reputable school
- Preferably a LET Passer
- Must be of good moral character
- Must be proficient in English and Filipino
- Must have a pleasant personality

Fresh graduates who will take the LET for school year 2008-2009 are welcome to apply. You may send your resumé with your Transcript of Records or personally handcarry these to:

MAGIS ACADEMY
#10 Tindalo St., Town & Country Executive Village
Marcos Highway
Tel. Nos. 249-09-17 & 249-09-19
Look for : Mrs. Cecilla S. Lavilles



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renal.nurse@fmcpi.com

Join Fresenius.
Be a member of our GLOBAL nephrology nursing force and open your door to opportunities...worldwide!

EOE

NOW HIRING
IT SPECIALIST (I)

raduate in Computer
Technology Information
Technology equivalent
Minimum of 1 year experienced
Proficient in Windows Ser
Windows XP, Network Top
Hardware Troubleshooting
Online and work with minimal

Interested applicants may send their updated resume to the attention of HRD Manager at NBI Center, Unit 1208,12th Floor, Tycoon Building, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or fax to 910-2827

JEN-I

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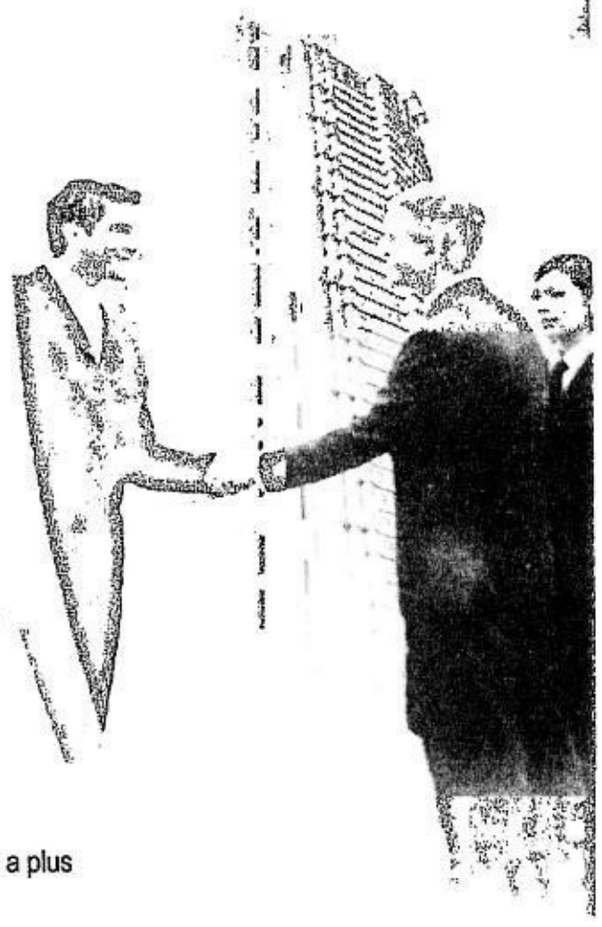

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-Fluent in English
-Ability to speak Chinese is an advantage
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MONARC FURNISHINGS
NEEDS
PRODUCTION MANAGER
With expe
BETTER BODIES GYM
GYM MANAGER
GYM INSTRUCTORS
Apply at Better
#26 Matalino St
Brino Bio-data T 34

We are looking for an
Account Manager!

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#10 Tindalo St., Town & Country Executive Village
Marcos Highway
Tel. Nos. 249-09-17 & 249-09-19
Look for : Mrs. Cecilla S. Lavilles

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE

JOB Market
at ww jobmarketonline.com

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS REQUIRED BY

VERSACARD

First Versatile Smartcard Solutions Corp.

Chief Financial Officer

Applicants must be CPA with experience in the following field: Financial Management, Budgeting - Accounting - Administrative functions. Well versed in government laws related to monetary transactions. Business Development. Knowledgeable in the line of business. At least ten (10) years experience in the field of Finance and Corporate Accounting.

Smartcard Manager

Applicants should be experienced in the smartcard business and with experience in dealing with card personalization and management of keys

CCH Manager

Applicants should have a sound background in accountancy, preferably in bank settlement and reconciliation processes. The selected candidate will be responsible for setting up the Company's financial processes including audit and control procedures to ensure financial integrity.

IT Manager

Applicants should have a degree in computer science or similar, experience with both Oracle (10g preferable) and SQL Server Platforms with an in-depth understanding of Data Warehousing, Mining and High Volume Transaction processing (On and Off line).

Systems Operations Manager

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of both Sun and IBM servers and be experienced in the operating systems and application software.

Applications Engineer (1)/ Software Development (1)

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of VMWare/BOI/BPEL/JBOSS Windows Management/ Crystal Reports/ CD Generator.

Network and Systems Administrator

Applicants should be experienced in the use and application of both Sun and IBM Servers, have experience in Network set and operation, and also be able to support the IT Manager.

Database Administrator

Applicants should have experience with Oracle 9i/10g DBA, Tomcat/IAS and Oracle DWHS Builder.

Para - Legal Officer

College Graduate with a legal background (Corporate Law degree would be an advantage)

Applicants should be Filipino, 25 to 35 years old, Male or Female and be able to show 3 to 5 years experience in a similar position, a relevant degree suitable for the position applied for and have excellent English communication ability.

Salary packages are negotiable dependent on the background and experience. Head office will be based in the Makati Central Business District area.

Applicants should send their CVs by Email to hr@versacard.net not later than December 5, 2007.

VERSACARD
Carry me to!

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Qualifications:

- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/ Advertising/Publication.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- College Graduate, Major in Advertising, Broadcast Media or Mass Communication
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Preferably with TV Production Experience, Scriptwriting a plus.
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills

hinge inquirer PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may send their resumés to any of the ff: jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tel Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN
MECHANIC
With 3 to 4 years experience
23 to 26 years old

SECRETARY
Accounting graduate / with sales & bookkeeping experience
23 to 25 years old

Bring the following:
Bio-data/Resumé with picture, Transcript of records/ NBI/Police/Barangay Clearance

Apply at:
Mickey Auto-Bus Airconditioning
Blk. 6 Lot 10, L. De Guzman St., Concepcion, Marikina City
Tels. 997-0570 • 475-1308 • 942-2055

JOIN OUR TEAM!
We are currently in need of the following:

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER
Preferably a graduate of any business-related course and has extensive experience in retail operations and management

TECHNICIAN
Preferably a graduate of Mechanical Engineering or any technical course. (No experience required)

CALL 850-9874, 474-3081
PACIFICA DIVE CENTER, INC.
info@pacificadive.net

SBWDFI to honor 10 outstanding Subic Freeport Workers

THE SUBIC BAY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Foundation Inc (SBWDFI) is set to honor ten outstanding employees who were selected for exemplifying their dedication to work, efficiency, positive work attitudes, leadership capabilities and interpersonal maturity. The awarding ceremonies for the 2007 Ten Outstanding Subic Freeport Workers shall be held at Subic Bay Arts Center (SuBAC) on Nov. 28.

Now on its sixth year, the recognition aims at giving recognition to most outstanding employees and also to give special honors to some of the companies inside the Freeport that have made positive contributions towards the achievement of industrial peace and harmony.

The SBWDFI created a more tedious competitive selection process in search of outstanding Freeport employees of the year which is in essence shall reward outstanding employees' commitment; innovativeness; service and performance excellence. The theme of this award scheme is—"A Workforce Recognition Award Scheme for Workers in the Freeport Zone."

The criteria for the selection included the following: 1. Provision of excellence client/customer service-(15%); 2. Excellent performance in a project or similar undertaking-(20%); 3. Personal dedication and commitment to the company or organization-(20%); 4. Commitment to the Freeport's culture, social spirit and strategic directions- (15%); 5. Development of innovative ideas/concepts-(15%); and 6. Exceptional leadership-(15%).

The selection process involved various phases which were—Phase 1-The Nomination Process; Phase 2-The Initial Interview and Phase 3-The Final Interview. The meticulous processes were anticipated to have resulted to the achievement of the intent and the spirit of the award with the genuine attempt of recognizing the workers' commitment and excellence.

This year's board of judges is composed of the Chair - Jesse Francis Rebustillo, (head, Classified Ads/Philippine Daily Inquirer) and two members, Nenita Alvarez, Department of Education, Region III and Capt. Jaren Buslotan, Philippine National Police, Region III.

SBWDFI was created through the partnership of the SBMA and Freeport investors as well as non-government organizations with the goal of putting skills and technical development programs for thousands of workers here by setting-up a foundation that could also foster industrial peace inside the Freeport Zone. The foundation shall also be utilized as an instrument of encouraging the establishment of company organizations and sub-groups which can emulate best conciliation methods towards resolutions of labor relations' conflicts for a win-win solution. SBWDFI was established for the purpose of promoting labor education programs work population management and other related programs.

With this goal in mind, the SBDWFI deeply entrenched in its foundation the membership of various companies' LMC'S (Labor Management Councils). The foundation has its Board of Trustees with representatives from the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)-Subic Chapter, locators-investors, Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC), SBMA-Labor Department.

Past Awardees

2006 -- Davis, Thomas Eirween A. (Mondriaan Aura College), De Perio, Richard John (Koryo Subic Inc), Espinos, Bianca Christiane G. (Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium), Eusantos, Leo C. (Mondriaan Aura College), Lugod, Raphael T. (Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium), Mabulay, Bronson G. (Wistron Infocomm), Martin, Anabelle M. (Wistron Infocomm), Musngi, Mariano R. (Subic Water), Ong, Noemi D. (Koryo Subic Inc), Salvador, Roma S. (Mondriaan Aura College);

2005 -- Agsaoay, Rica C. (Nicera), Amog, Desgracia J. (Fedex), Bada, Marlon D. (Wistron), Bautista, Leah C. (LIRL), Buñol, Anvi P. (Subic Water), Delos Santos, Evangelina C. (Subic Water), Delos Santos, Edmon A. (RCM), Gubaton, Marlon P. (DJ Aerospace), Nuque, Alfred P. (SBDMC);

2004 -- Balan, Lina (LIRL), Carballo, Ludivina (Mondriaan Aura), Daria, Israel R. (Koryo), Fabian, Jeannette C. (Mondriaan Aura), Ferrarez, Frederick T. (RCM), Ginez, Ma. Belma B. (SIH) Gutierrez, Manuel D. (Wistron), Isaac, Nolito F. (Subic Water), Sioson, Eddie D. (RCM), Villanueva, Thelma M. (Subic Water);

2003 -- Nivalbos, Cleofe A. (SIH), Ecijan, Gabriel A. (LIRL), Echavia, Perseveranda O. (Wistron), Esguerra, Carlito S.(Wistron), Eslava, Gilbert E.(Wistron), Gloria, Aldea R. (Fedex), Matira, Myrna D. (Mondriaan Aura), Menor, Elisa A. (Mondriaan Aura), Calba, Ronald S. (Subic Technics), Manalili, Ricardo A. (RCM);

2002 -- Arpileda, Ruben S. (SBSSI), Baldonasa, Liberty S. (LIRL), Crisóstomo, Mary Jane P. (Wistron), Dimalanta, Roel B. (Mondriaan Aura), Manabat, Lydia C. (Fedex), Misota, Evangeline M. (Williams Advance), Monsalud, Rafael G. (Subic Water), Panopio, Vincent G. (Golden Net), Santillan, E-li M. (Wistron), Santos, Richard B. (SIH).

A TRANSFORMATIVE MARKETING COMPANY

GEISERMACLANG
Marketing Communications, Inc.

YOUR FUTURE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

Surf this weekend, go wine tasting on the next, maybe even go hiking, food tasting or resort hopping (the list goes on really) on any given workweek—but be prepared to put in crazy hours.

If the most exciting thing on your weekday schedule is an afternoon on your desk stealthily sneaking a peek at your Friendster account when your boss isn't looking—then we have four words for you:

Join us at GeiserMaclang.

Then you might have something more to look forward to on Mondays than just paperwork.

The team is on the lookout for committed as well as proactive team members who have a zest for excellence & the willingness to learn new things while having fun doing what they like best.

PR ACCOUNTS OFFICER

You will support the team by backstopping the PR and Communications Manager in our campaigns. You must be a Communications, Marketing or Business graduate with at least 1 year experience in accounts management. You should be proactive, patient and willing to work long hours just to do things excellently. You're a planner, able to handle multiple priorities, and able to work in harmony with your colleagues in the office & the industry. You're detail-oriented, can efficiently manage your time, and you must have excellent MS Office skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

WRITERS

For anyone who loves to write, is decidedly creative and is a stickler for grammar--this job is for you. You must be a Journalism, Communications or Marketing graduate, preferably with at least a year of professional writing experience in a creative (ad/PR or marketing) agency setting. You must have strong research skills, have superior oral and written communication skills and strong editing skills. Must be detail-oriented, able to manage time efficiently, handles multiple projects, meets tight deadlines; proactive, patient and willing to work long hours.

EVENTS MANAGER

You must be outgoing with a knack for executing public & media events developed by our creative team. You must be a graduate of the Arts, Communications or any Marketing related course with at least 2-3 years experience in Events Management (at least 1 year in one company); able to multi-task and meet tight deadlines; proactive and with a sunny outlook in life. You must be a hardworker, with a keen eye for detail; able to manage time efficiently and has excellent people and presentation skills; must be resourceful and must have a wide network of suppliers and talents.

EVENTS ASSISTANT

You must be a Communications, Marketing or Business graduate, with one year experience in events management. You should be proactive, patient, willing to work long hours, able to multi-task, can plan ahead and deal closely with colleagues, both in the office and with suppliers. You must be detail-oriented, can manage time efficiently and has excellent MS Office skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

GeiserMaclang Marketing Communications Inc. is one of the country's most groundbreaking marketing communications firms, representing some of the Philippines' well-loved brands and market leaders.

Interested applicants may forward their letter of application, detailed CV with photo and transcript of records to careers@geisermaclang.com

Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Rubicon, Jordan's leading animation firm, is recruiting for an upcoming exciting 2D animation project. Positions available include:

rubicon www.rubicon.com.jo

2D ANIMATOR REQUIRED

Skills and Requirements:
- Strong drawing skills
- 3 years experience in character animation
- An understanding of storyboards
- Developing the timing and acting of character(s)
- Knowledge of Toon Boom is a plus but will train

All candidates must be willing to relocate to Jordan.

Duration of job: two years. Location of work: Amman – Jordan.

If you feel you have what it takes, please visit the 'work with us' section at www.rubicon.com.jo, upload your CV & samples of your work, OR mail: jobs@rubicon.com.jo

Client centric selling

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC WILL CONduct a two-day seminar on Client Centric Selling on Dec. 4, 8:30 to 5:30 p.m at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. This seminar introduces updated selling philosophies and processes that address the rise of the "active buyer."

It provides solutions to selling issues in the new environ; relegates inapplicable old methods to the archives while validating and enhancing continuing effective practices. This also helps participants understand the buyer's thought process. To execute the client-centric process properly, specific skills are identified in each step of the process.

For registration or other inquiries, call Alice Torres or Gail Sacluti at 722-2318 / 727-7142 or email us at info@mansmith.net.

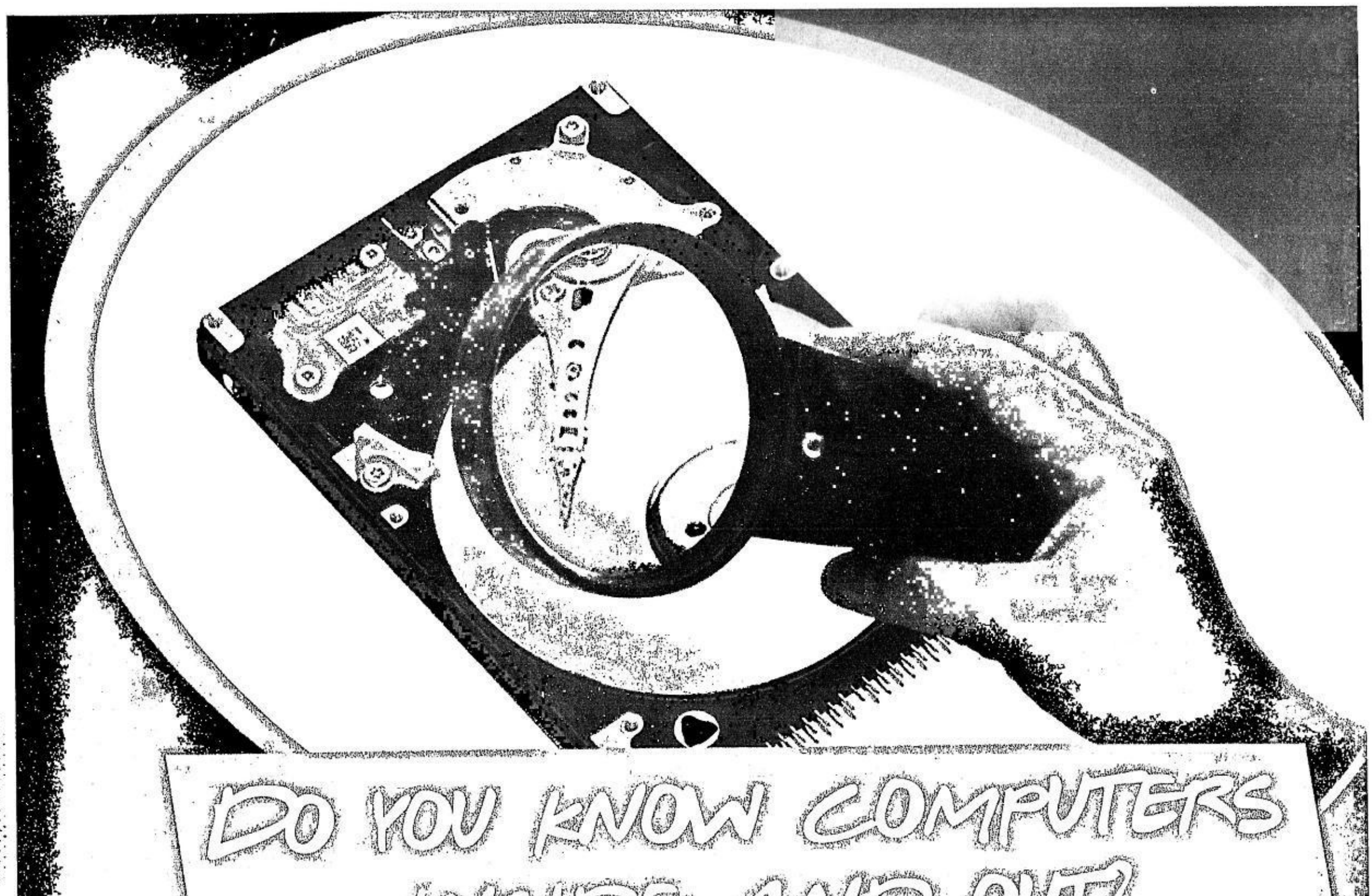
4th Strategic Marketing

MARKETING MANAGERS NEED TO GO BEYOND the daily grind—and that means seeing the bigger picture for more relevant courses of action and use of resources. Mansmith and Fielders, Inc will conduct a one-day course on 4th Strategic Marketing, analyzing your industry and opportunities made easy on Dec. 4, 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Mandarin Oriental Hotel. This seminar is an ideal program for those who need to communicate plans to top management using an encompassing view of the industry to maximize opportunities in a systematic manner. For registration or other inquiries, call Alice Torres or Gail Sacluti at 722-2318 / 727-7142 or email us at info@mansmith.net.

Environmental conflict management seminar

A TWO-DAY COURSE WILL BE HELD ON DEC. 11 and 12 at ECI Training Center, Unit E, 9th Floor, Strata 100 Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to deal with and resolve conflicts regarding environment and natural resources concerns, including social conflicts brought about by development projects.

This course is ideal for project developers and implementers, LGU and NGO planners financial planners, engineers and project managers, as well as pollution control officers and environmental personnel. For more info, contact ARIVA at 8958058, 8959527 or 8909651. Email at successseminars@Ariva.com.ph



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Then we have the careers for you!

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Earn from your passion.

Be part of TeleTech's pioneering team in NOVALICHES working with one of the world's leading computer companies!

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- Preferably graduates of any four-year course
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- With strong comprehension and listening skills
- With basic computer troubleshooting skills
- Preferably with technical support experience

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Three golden rules in life-career planning

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE privilege of youth, it would be a good idea to make plans—not just for your career, but your whole life as well. Setting a life and work direction for yourself may take some time and would probably need a few adjustments as you go along your way. Following are three simple guidelines to remember as you start your visioning exercises:

Define your core beliefs. To find meaning in life, you must discover the deepest values and principles that, consciously or unconsciously, affect your whole being. For a personal belief to be truly meaningful, it has to have a positive end that benefits not just yourself, but the common good as well. For example, it is not enough to put your personal happiness as an end goal. The happiness part is the result, not the end. It may be good to consider noble ambitions such as your faith in God, your love of family, your dedication to the environment, etc.

Once your core beliefs in life become clear to you, it would be easier to plan your career in a manner that is compatible with your life plan. For example, if you are someone who strongly believes in the importance of family in your life, you may then adjust your career plans according to that vision. A mother may decide to forego certain professions in favor of a job that would give her more time to take care of her children.

Look at the big picture. Some people get so focused on their careers that they fail to see how major events in life have any connection at all. For example, a married person may think that family life and career are two compartments when both aspects of life should actually intermingle beautifully, just like the blending of colors in a watercolor painting that is artfully done by its master.

In the past, there has been much emphasis on purely career concerns when it came to the idea of professional success. One's personal circumstances were hardly considered in the scheme of things. Sometimes it was even hidden from a potential employer. In truth, it is important to plan your life and work as a whole—precisely because the definition of success is not limited to the workplace. A person is a whole being and his overall happiness will depend on whether he has lived his life to the full in all aspects, namely, the spiritual, physical, mental, professional and personal arenas.

Live a passionate life. You spend a good portion of your time at work. It is therefore imperative that you find a job that you can love and do well. Take stock of what you have, your talents and inclinations including your weaknesses. If you haven't found the right job yet, strategize on the best way to reach your goals. Write your career plans hand in hand with your life goals. Find the hidden thread that connects the broken stitches of your life into a majestic tapestry.

The important thing is to begin. Don't waste another second wondering where the wind may take you. Know that you have a choice at each moment. Seize the opportunity write your life-career plan before it's too late. Happiness is a gift that comes as a result of sowing goodness in one's life. What better way to maximize your energies than to start with a vision? You only get one chance of a lifetime to make things happen.

Feedback at www.joyposadas.blogspot.com

Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reliving Calvary

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

MANY WOULD WONDER WHY A CRIMINAL WHO WAS CRUCIFIED with Jesus and who beg Him to be remembered when He comes into His kingdom was brought by Him to Paradise. One might say that a hard-working and law-abiding man would deserve celestial happiness rather than one who is considered as a social liability. Yet, Jesus seemed to be unmindful of the kind of work the man did or whether he did his job well or not when He promised him the reward of heaven. What the Lord seemed to have considered greatly important is that the repentant soul expressed a strong faith in the kingship of Jesus even when he saw Him as helpless as he was on the cross, and his simple and sincere desire to be with Him wherever this King would be.

For the working soul, this touching and moving Gospel event could show that desiring to be with Jesus and asking Him to take us with Him would be more valuable and important than our work; therefore, it is vital for the worker to always exert conscious effort to be united with Jesus everywhere including the workplace—and even if He shows Himself as a suffering Lord—so that every act he does in his job would be not only be earthly satisfying but also heavenly compensating.

Everyone in the workplace, in whatever rank or position he occupies, could consider his job as a task given him by Christ the King. And when he faithfully accomplishes his work in faith and obedience to the King and offer all his energies at work as a humble prayer to be with Jesus forever, the beautiful event in Calvary would be repeated once again, in time, at the ordinary workplace. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

You're 'only' human?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A BIBLE SCHOLAR, OR HAVE NEVER ATtended a Bible Study class, having been raised a Christian you may be familiar with the image of the "good thief" at the crucifixion of Jesus. Transfer that scene to your workplace and put yourself in the shoes—or on the cross—of the "good thief," then look around and see who among your officemates would be Jesus to you. I don't mean find the officemate that you would want crucified, but one who would not only unconditionally forgive you if asked for pardon but would also welcome you to a place of glory he is headed for.

How many Jesuses can you find? Your boss? (No, he's more of a Pilate!) Your assistant? (No, he's more like Judas!) The company president? (No, he's hardly in the office, so invisible, so he'd be more like the father of Jesus!) So, who? Maybe the vice president? (Oh, his sexual orientation would make him more of a Magdalene!) Well, at least now you know it's very hard to find a Jesus in your place of work. Why? Because most people think it's only human to be hurt and angry and that it's only human for humans to be human, so why not leave unconditional forgiving and forgetting to the gods? Maybe you'll find someone who can forgive you on certain conditions (like rival politicians) but forgiving your offenses and then finding the good in you, too, is just too much for a human being, right? Wrong.

You need not be the Son of God to do as He did; just bring the idea down to the concrete, graspable level and see for yourself. You can forgive without conditions when you realize that the offender also has a good side to him, just like any other human being. And when you support him after forgiving him, you are showing how noble your soul is. And that is also being human. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_ manila@yahoo.com)*

Managing your personal or family budget

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Datu Puangco

IN MY EARLIER COLUMN, WHEN I suggested that we have to acquire "a balanced view of money" I recommended living a reasonable standard of living suitable to your lifestyle and means.

I remember the words of wisdom I heard from my mother, "it is not how much you earn but how much you save that matters in building financial health for the future."

This brings us to the topic of personal or family budgeting. We have to budget when we have access to funds on a regular basis as in a salary from work. Budgeting becomes even more important when we don't have a steady flow, where our funds oscillate between feast and famine.

Personal and family budgeting, what is it? Basically, a budget is an estimate of income and expenditure within specified limits of a person or family. It is planning where one's income will go. The plan serves to guide our expenditures and savings. The discipline of budgeting means the person or family has the desire and will power to adhere to the plan and constantly improve on it.

What are the "musts" that have to be included in the budget? We can talk of several levels of needs, depending on your capability and lifestyle.

First level, are the things we need to survive, what Maslow calls the basic needs. This can include expenses for food, water, shelter, transportation, education, medicine and utilities such as electricity.

Then the second level which consists of social needs is to include a budget for mobile communications, occasional entertainment and a fund for sharing.

The third level that considers achievement and self-actualization would include savings, investment, travel and higher education, property preservation such as house maintenance and insurance.

Keeping track

People who manage their budgets have a robust plan for tracking expenses.

People who tend to go over budget often have no idea where their money goes. My mini survey shows three ways that people use to keep track of their expenses. One is the traditional letter envelope style. As soon as a person receives his pay, he distributes the money based on the amount indicated for the particular expense, in white envelopes. At the end of the month he reviews expenses and places all the excess money into a savings amount.

Another way is for the computer proficient. A friend of ours diligently documents in an excel file, all expenditures and encoding the corresponding receipt when available. He regularly reviews expenses as well as keeps track of his assets and investments.

My technique is slightly different. All expenses, I try to charge to my credit card. These include utility bills, gas, groceries, medicine, books, restaurant bills, etc. I am able to keep track of expenses when I get hold of my credit card bill. Using a credit card enables me to gain time in terms of actual payout. Every month I am able to see how I can reduce particular items. One month, I noticed I overspent for entertainment and dining out expenses. Immediately, I resolved to reduce this item by 50 percent for the next month. Or my long distance bill, I noticed that someone at home was doing lengthy long distance calls. At once, I am able to bring up at a family meeting how to reduce said calls. The key here is to always pay your total credit card on time. If you pay only minimum amounts you end up with ballooning interest payments that will likely upset your budget.

Minimizing expenses

I discovered many innovative techniques in minimizing expenditures. One is to make "keeping to the budget" a family adventure. In our family we hold regular family meetings. An agenda item is always how our budget went last month and how we can manage better the budget the next month. A consultant in our family assigns one child to monitor that only necessary lights are on. Another child is assigned to check that all faucets do not leak and are securely closed. In a household where your children are gainfully employed, you can encourage them to be generous and suggest they handle part of the family expenses.

Two, is to discover budget places where one can get a similar item with the same function for less expense. Some ideas are: wait for the designer dress you like to go on sale in the next six months, check out a store that sells household items at a fixed price of P88, a young lady I know who dresses impeccably regularly checks out ukay-ukay stores and makes careful choices. A student bought a professional camera through the Internet at P3,500.

Three, is to downshift your lifestyle. Take public transport instead of riding your car to work. If you bring it to work realize that you can find a safe yet cheap parking space, maybe 20 meters away from your building.

Increasing your income

Another friend of ours has discovered that he and his wife can go for a concert in Quezon City at the bleachers section and still enjoy topnotch entertainment. After the concert they take a delicious breakfast buffet for P85.

If you have given your best to minimize expenses, you may still be financially challenged and the only cure is to increase your income. One employee started marketing customized pants for a tailor, selling them at very competitive costs. Another employee prepares and sells sandwiches at work. Still another one sets up a barbecue stand in front of his house on Saturdays. The Filipino is ingenious in finding ways to find extra income to augment the budget.

We congratulate the 36 distance learners who passed our test on "Techniques for Self-Leadership." Please get in touch with Mark Corpus of our office for your certificate. Enrollment is on, for this series on "Smart Money Management." Simply send us an e-mail, follow our column, then take a quiz after 10 articles of a series (this is the second of the series). If you pass, you get a free distance learning certificate from Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting firm. Feedback at l-earning moments@ancillaedc.com.ph)

Income gap among black and white families grows

WASHINGTON—DECADES AFTER the civil rights movement, the income gap between black and white families has grown, says a new study that tracked the incomes of some 2,300 families for more than 30 years.

Incomes have increased among both black and white families in the past three decades—mainly because more women are in the work force. But the increase was greater among whites, according to the study being released Tuesday.

One reason for the growing disparity: Incomes among black men have actually declined in the past three decades, when adjusted for inflation. They were offset only by gains among black women.

Incomes among white men, meanwhile, were relatively stagnant, while those of white women increased more than fivefold.

Going up

"Overall, incomes are going up. But not all children are benefiting equally from the American dream," said Julia Isaacs, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

Isaacs wrote a series of three reports that looked at the incomes of parents in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and of their grown children 30 years later. Isaacs compared the incomes of parents who were in their 30s with the incomes of their children, once they reached the same age group.

Parents have long hoped that their children would grow up to be more successful than they were. Hopes were especially high for black children who came of age following the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

The reports found that about two-thirds of the children surveyed grew up to have higher family incomes than their parents had 30 years earlier.

Grown black children were just as likely as whites to have higher incomes than their parents. However, incomes among whites increased more than those of their black counterparts.

The result: In 2004, a typical black family had an income that was only 58 percent of a typical white family's. In 1974, median black incomes were 63 percent those of whites.

"Too many Americans, whites and even some blacks, think that the playing field has indeed leveled," said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League.

It has not, he added.

Inadequate schools

"We are like fingers on the hand," Morial said of black and white Americans. "We are on the same hand, but we are separate fingers."

Morial blamed the disparities on inadequate schools in black neighborhoods, workplace discrimination and too many black families with only one parent.

"The public policy commitment to this has been sketchy over the last 30 years," Morial said. "There has not been a real focus on this."

Perhaps most disturbing, middle-income black families do not appear to be passing on higher incomes to their children in the same way that white families have, Isaacs said.

She found that only one in three black children from middle-income families grew up to have higher incomes than their parents.

"That means a majority ended up slipping down," Isaacs said.

Among whites, about two-thirds of the children from middle-income families grew up to have higher incomes than their parents, she said.

On a positive note, black children from poor families were much more likely to grow up to have higher incomes than their parents, Isaacs said.

Isaacs compiled the reports for the Economic Mobility Project, a collaboration of senior economists and researchers from four Washington think tanks that span the ideological spectrum. The project is funded and managed by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Isaacs used survey data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, which is conducted at the University of Michigan.

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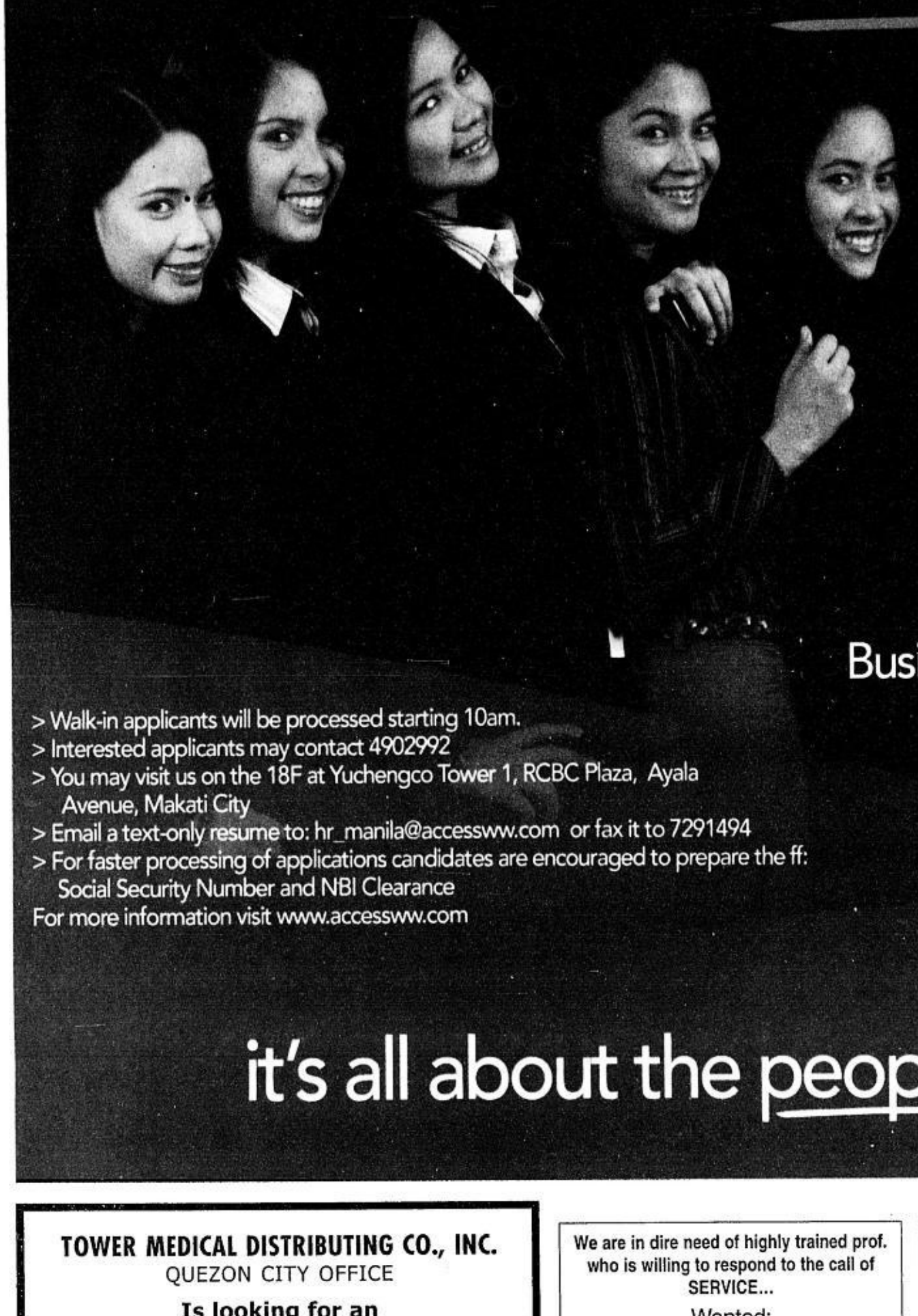

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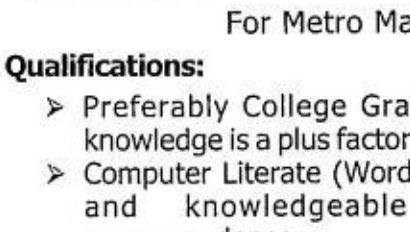

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Junior INQUIRER

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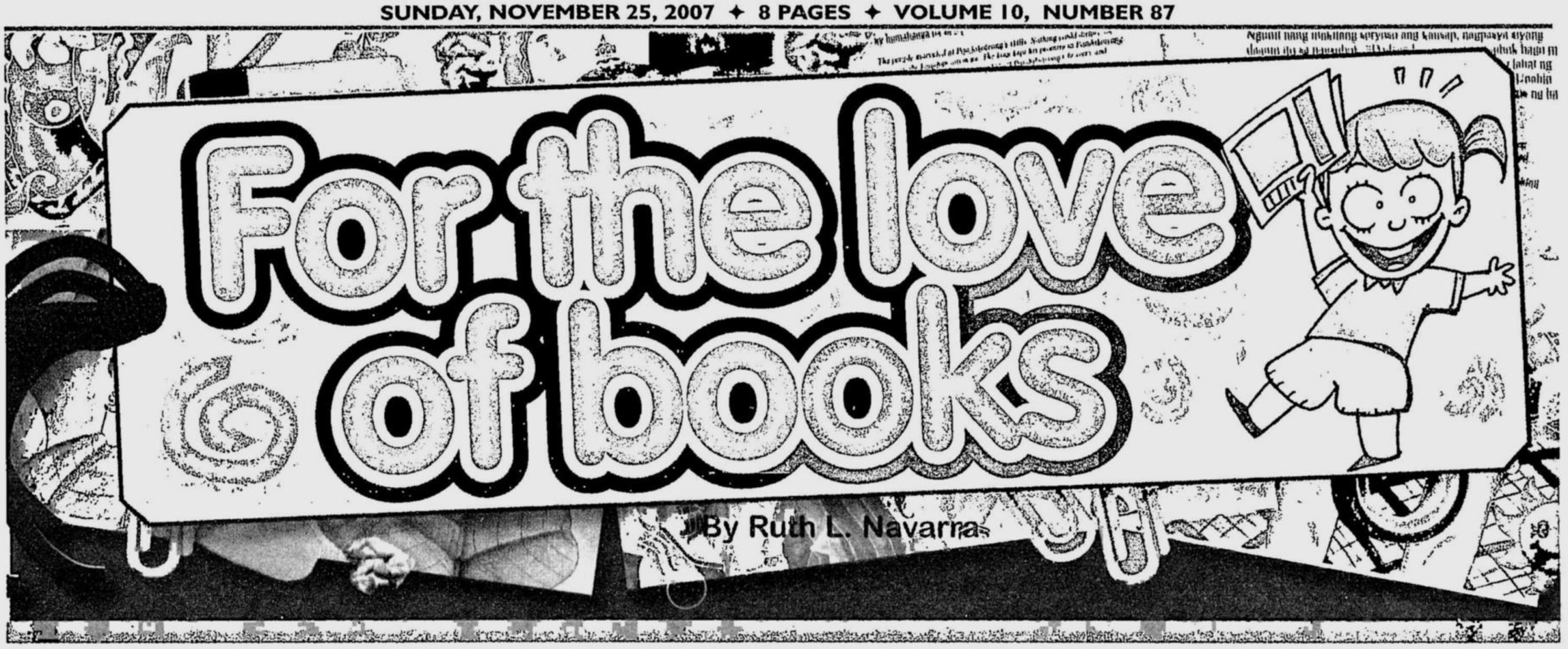
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 87

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Soccer greats Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo had a "Match Against Poverty", find out who their guest player is on page 5.



For the love of books

By Ruth L. Navarra

LET ME GUESS: YOUR favorite book is not a textbook. It's probably a storybook, something that you read for the sheer pleasure of getting lost in the story again and again.

Sadly, not all Filipino kids get to pick a favorite book. In fact, a lot of them don't get to read storybooks at all! It's not that they don't give books a chance, it's because they don't have access to books. The Department of Education came up with a solution—a library hub.

The library hub is a storehouse of books. It lends reading materials to grade school and high school students from public schools.

"A library hub is a partnership. A corporation or the local government writes to us that they will sponsor a room or space, we provide all the books," says project officer Beverly Gonda.

The library hub started in 2003. To date, there are 35 library hubs all over the country. They aim to build 265 more by 2010. Each hub has an extensive collection of local and foreign publications.

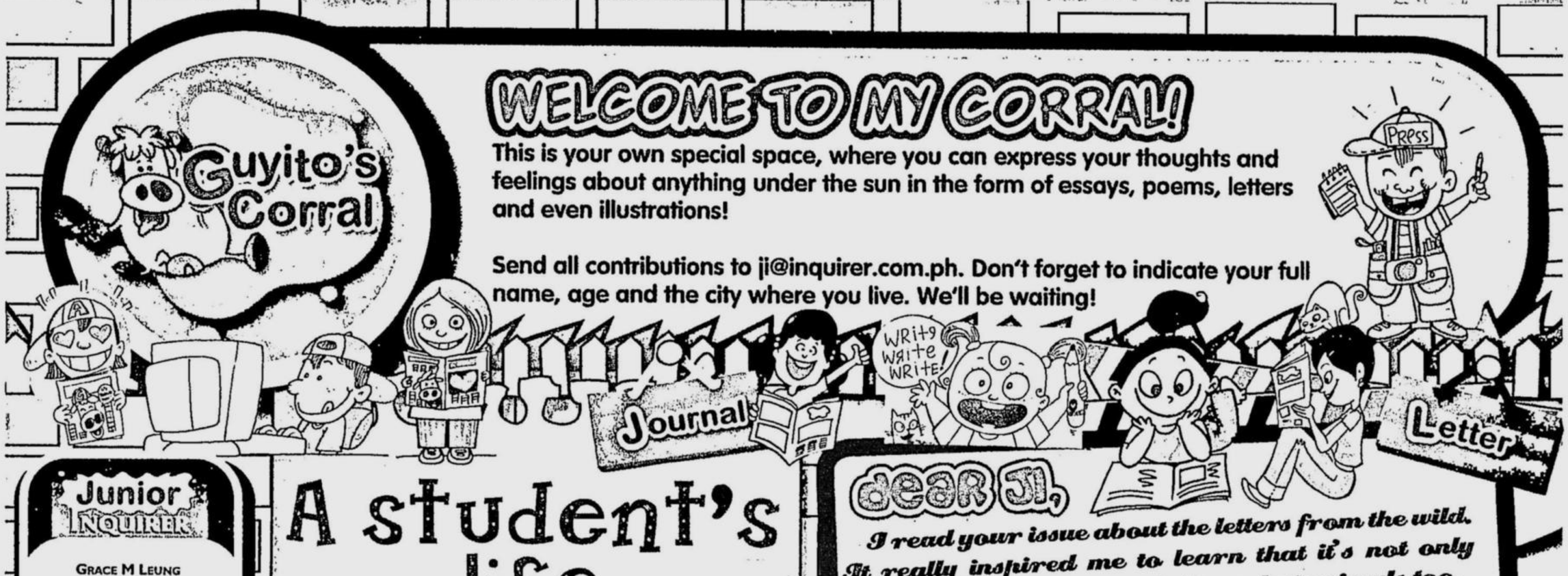
But, the hub is different from a typical library because students cannot borrow books. Instead, their teacher borrows for them. They read their books inside their classes. Sometimes, they are allowed to take home books as thick as the classic "Lord of the Rings".

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

"For grade school students, we aim that they read at least one book a week," says Beverly.

They also hold several activities, like storytelling sessions and writing competitions, to get more kids interested in reading.

A kid from Batanes wrote that he thought that their library hub is "like Disneyland." If he gets to finish all the books in their hub, he will probably say it's even better than a theme park!


Guyito's Corral
WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!
This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!
Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!
Journal
Write Write Write!
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Letter

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

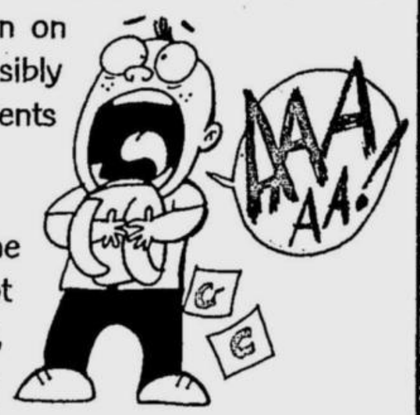
A student's life

Jigan V. Aguyen, 12 years old
Nuestra Senora de Aranzazu Parochial School, San Mateo, Rizal

BEING A STUDENT IS ONE OF THE MOST important parts of our lives. It involves a lot of exciting experiences.

But what others don't know is that school life has a lot of stress too. Many parents don't realize this.

I myself have experienced this. I have been a consistent first honor student since Grade 3. Maintaining my position on top is very difficult. Possibly disappointing my parents added to my stress.



There was a time when my grades got affected. My parents, who both work, were too busy. I thought I was alone because I had no one to consult whenever I had problems with my studies.

But thank God, when my parents found out about my grades, they supported me all the way. Now I feel more confident.

The different things we do in school are challenges to us. I realized that the life of a student is a long learning process.

dear JI,

I read your issue about the letters from the wild. It really inspired me to learn that it's not only human beings that have feelings, but animals too.

I grew up without a pet, only a goldfish. My mom told me to stay away from big animals, and that is why until now, I am afraid of animals.

This year, on my sister's 3rd birthday, our uncle gave us a turtle as a present. I learned how to love turtles, even my mom did.

I also learned that we should never hurt animals. The kids in my sister's party were hitting the turtle with rocks, so I told them not to and they did what I asked.

I think we should cherish all animals because they are blessings from God.

—Jaya Araceli E. Fugen
10 years old
Pasig City

We at JI love animals, Jaya! We're happy that you're learning to love them too.

—JI Staff

YOU WIN!

Jaya gets a Itsy Bitsy Bratz Babyz Mini Playset—Vinessa's Pepperoni Pizza. Itsy Bitsy Bratz are the smallest version of Bratz Babyz.

Come and visit the Bratz month-long exhibit at Kidz Station Rockwell. For details please call 3719978 loc. 102. Bratz Itsy Bitsy is distributed by Ban Kee Trading.

WHAT IMAGINARY PLACE WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT?

Think Out Loud!

School of Magic, so I could learn how to do magic. —**Angelica S. Villarosa**, 11, Pasig City

I would like to visit Gondor in Middle Earth. I would like to visit it because that is where Aragorn and his friends fought a fierce battle against the forces of Mordor. —**Mikko Serrano**, 12, Quezon City

I would like to visit Utopia, because it contains a perfect world and a perfect society. —**Emir V. Mendoza**, 13, Makati City

A magical place like Narnia. I want to have magical powers to fight evil and to control magical creatures. —**Michael Perfecto**, 10, Quezon City

Fairyland. In that land I could do good.—**Elma Joy T. Delos Reyes**, 12, Pasig City

A place in the clouds, because there's solitude. —**Camille Rose Montecer**, 11, Pasig City

Mirror, mirror, on the wall...

The fairytale princess who gets transported from her magical land to the gritty streets of New York is Princess Giselle!

And here are the 10 lucky JI readers who got it right! They will each get a Magic Answer Ball, set of stickers, photo frame and a manhole paper pad, all from Disney.

Charlene G. Mabanag, 13, Pasay City
Maria Francesca B. Laquindanum, 6, Naga City
Antonio Miguel D. Magtalas, 9, Quezon City
Wills Gomez, 9, Muntinlupa City
Erika Juillet R. Lopez, 7, Pagsanjan, Laguna
Alexandra Valenzuela, 10, Kalookan City
Kristina Malabanan, 10, Marikina City
Daniella Gadil, 6, Novaliches, Quezon City
Karen Shy, 10, Antipolo City
Maria Angeline Uylangco, 13, Pasig City

Please email ji@inquirer.com.ph or call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340 Monday to Friday, 2 p.m.-9 p.m. to find out how you can get your prize. All prizes must be claimed by Dec. 10, 2007.

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SMX
Junior

JI SNOOPS

Totally Enchanted

IMAGINE LIVING IN A wonderful kingdom, where animals talk and mythical creatures roam. You just found your "Prince Charming". Everything seems perfect until... you suddenly get transported into a strange, unknown land called New York City!

Princess-to-Be Giselle (Amy Adams) of the land of Andalasia was all set to marry her love, Prince Edward (James Marsden).

But the wicked Queen Narissa (Susan Sarandon) pushes her into a magical well.

Giselle soon finds herself transported to New York, where she meets a kind lawyer named Rob (Patrick Dempsey).

Will Princess Giselle ever find her one true love and have what every princess dreams of, a Happy Ever After?

Amy Adams certainly played a good, and sometimes wacky, dreamy princess. Patrick Dempsey was perfect as the charming Rob. James Marsden was funny as a slow-thinking, vain prince. Susan Sarandon convinced me that she was really menacing.

The chipmunk, Pip, will surely make the youngsters enjoy the film even more. Being the courageous and heroic little friend that he is to Giselle, he became my favorite character.

Whenever they showed Andalasia, the scenes were animated, but whenever they showed New York, there were real actors in real places. I enjoyed the transformation of cartoon characters into real-life human beings and animals.

It was fun seeing how similar the real character was to the animated version.

The effects were very well-crafted, such as when an enormous dragon scared the people from an entire building, created a hole in a giant window, and climbed the tower. Absolutely outrageous!

There were certainly no parts wherein you'd feel sleepy. Many scenes will surely keep you entertained, like when the chipmunk tried doing charades to communicate with Prince Edward. There was a spectacular song number at the park, and at that point, I wanted to get my own "Enchanted" soundtrack.

Although there were some kissing scenes, the movie was really good. It's not your typical fairytale movie. Unlike Snow White and Cinderella, this princess actually has to save her prince, and not the other way around.

Believe me, after seeing Giselle's adventures and misadventures, you'll find yourself truly enchanted!

Surin, THAILAND

Who's stronger?

AN ELEPHANT and schoolchildren compete in a tug of war during the 47th annual Elephant Roundup in Surin. The festival, which attracts thousands of tourists to the small city, celebrates the elephant as both a noble patriotic symbol and a longtime companion of local tribal minorities. **AP**

Berlin, GERMANY

Marvelous moustache

MEET Sancho, the new Emperor Tamarin of Berlin's Tierpark zoo. This primate, living in the southwest Amazon Basin, in east Peru, north Bolivia and in western Brazil, seems to wear a huge moustache, and was allegedly named as Emperor Tamarin due to his resemblance to German emperor Wilhelm II. **AFP**

Iloilo, PHILIPPINES

No fear factor

UNICYCLISTS (from left) Ronald Dagoc, Manny Jil Vidal and Noriel Himarangan practice doing extreme jumps from one boulder to another at a sea barrier near the Mall of Asia. They are preparing for a national unicycling competition to be held in Iloilo City.

Edwin Bacasmas

Gaza, PALESTINE

Kids protest

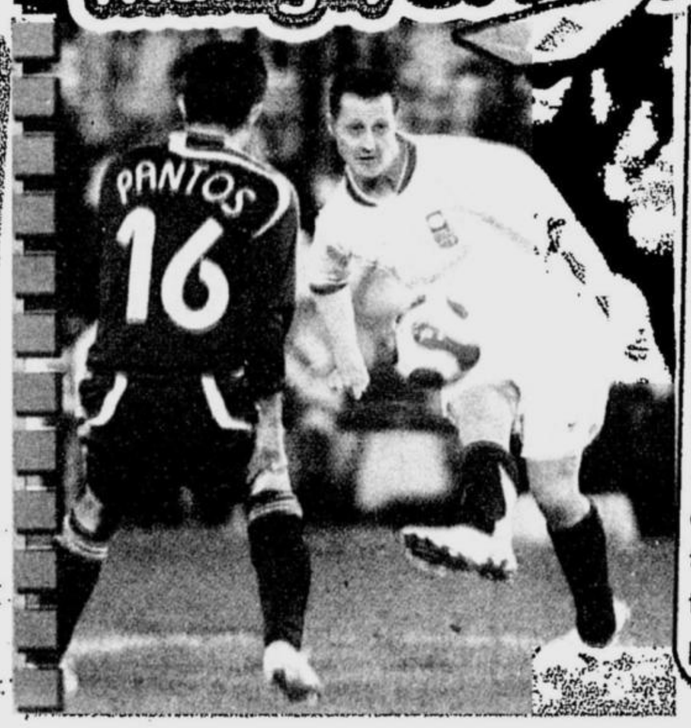
PALESTINIAN children mount a protest against the Israeli siege at the Gaza strip. They carry placards that read in Arabic, "It is our right to play and learn like other children". **AFP**

Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Pretty in pink

GIRLS try on Barbie costumes at the newly opened 6,996 square foot Barbie Store in Buenos Aires. In this store, girls can get glittery hairdos or try on gowns and play with dolls in the Barbie playroom, all while their parents nibble pink-frosted desserts in the Barbie cafe. **AP**

Malaga, SPAIN



Not just for kicks

FORMULA One driver Michael Schumacher kicks the ball during the fifth "Match against Poverty". As goodwill ambassadors for the United Nations Development Programme, Ronaldo of Brazil and Zinedine Zidane of France will captain the teams with their friends in this campaign against poverty. **Reuters**

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

ENTER THE BATTLEFIELD OF LEGENDS! VALKYRIE, THE FREE-TO-PLAY SERVER, IS HERE! 2X MODIFIED EXP UNTIL NOVEMBER 28, 2007! CELEBRATE EPISODE XV: RACHEL! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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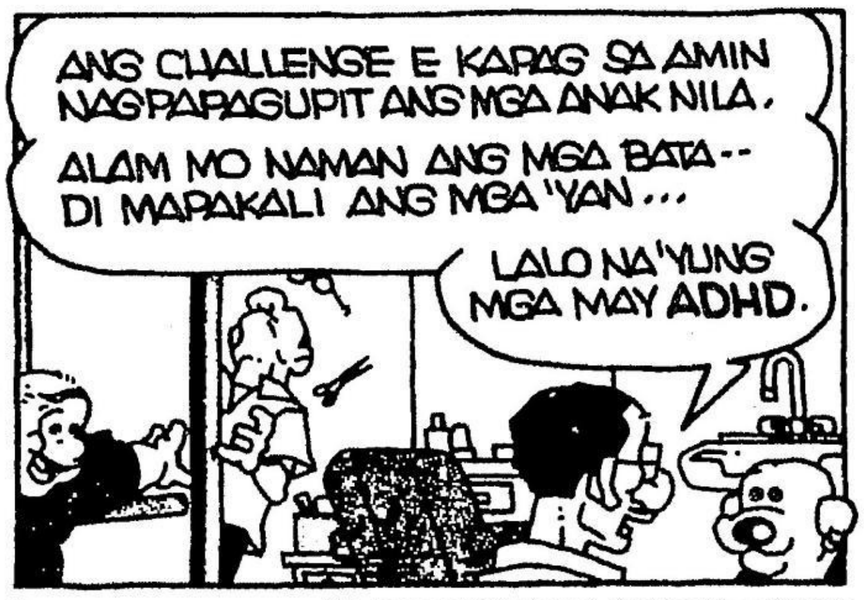
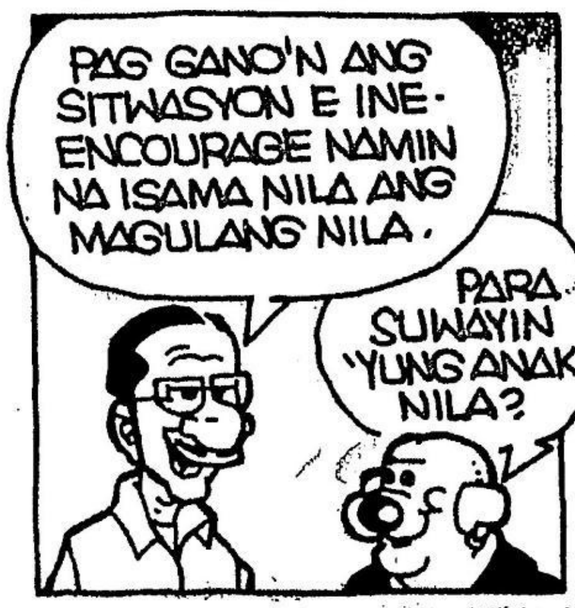
AND SO, WE MEET AGAIN.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T MOVED UP IN THE WORLD...
BUT YOU SURE HAVE MOVED AROUND.
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, PRIEST!
THIS TIME I BROUGHT BACK-UP.
Philippine
RAGNAROK
ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
OUR HEROES ARE ESCORTING ROYAL ADVISOR SILVERMAINE ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION INTO ARNAFELTIA WHEN THEY RUN INTO BANDITS, THE SAME BANDITS THEY DEFEATED NOT TOO LONG AGO...
RELEASE THE MANTISES!
click

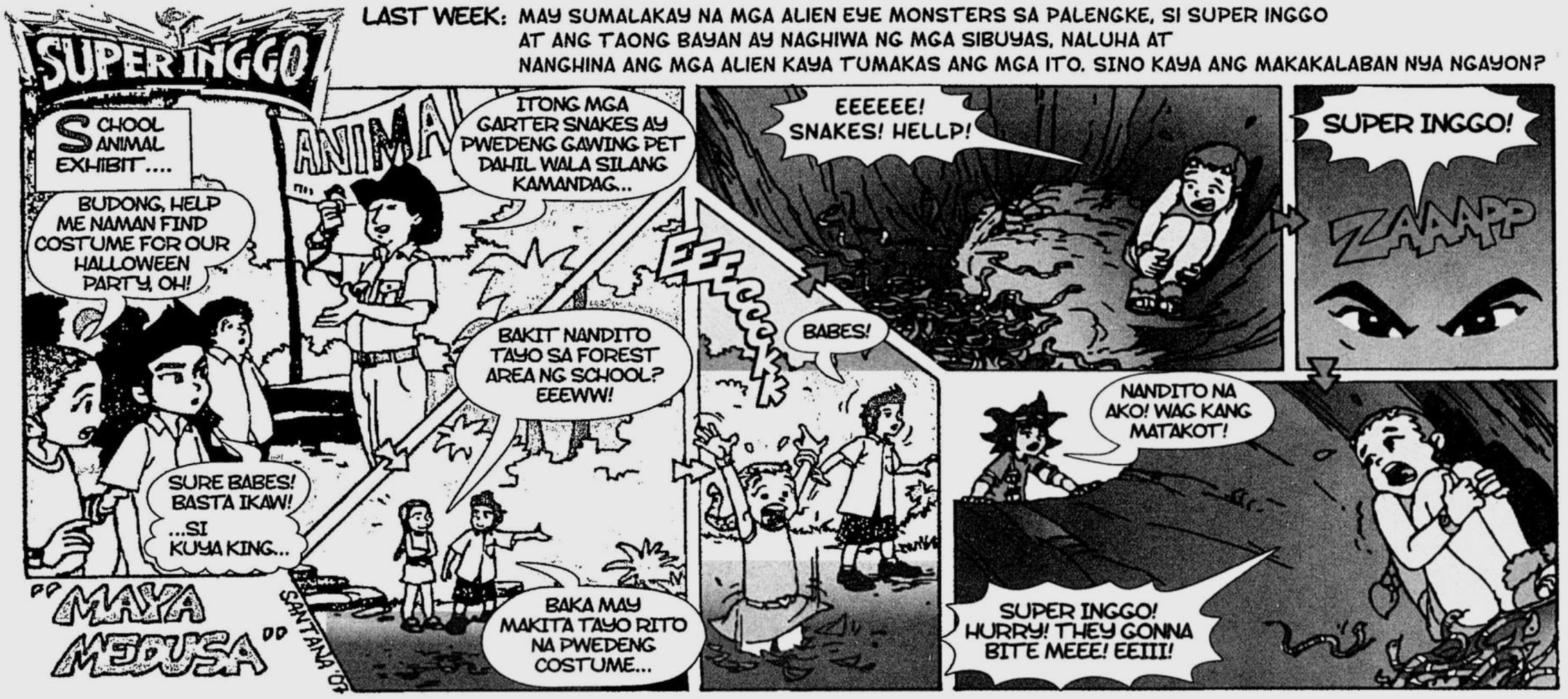
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


ANG CHALLENGE E KAPAG SA AMIN NAGPAPAGUPIT ANG MGA ANAK NILA.
ALAM MO NAMAN ANG MGA BATA-- DI MAPAKALI ANG MGA 'YAN...
LALO NA 'YUNG MGA MAY ADHD.



LAST WEEK: MAY SUMALAKAY NA MGA ALIEN EYE MONSTERS SA PALENGKE, SI SUPER INGGO AT ANG TAONG BAYAN AY NAGHIWA NG MGA SIBUYAS, NALUHA AT NANGHINA ANG MGA ALIEN KAYA TUMAKAS ANG MGA ITO. SINO KAYA ANG MAKAKALABAN NYA NGAYON?


SUPER INGGO
SCHOOL ANIMAL EXHIBIT....
ANIMAL
BUDONG, HELP ME NAMAN FIND COSTUME FOR OUR HALLOWEEN PARTY, OH!
ITONG MGA GARTER SNAKES AY PWEDENG GAWING PET DAHIL WALA SILANG KAMANDAG..
BAKIT NANDITO TAYO SA FOREST AREA NG SCHOOL? EEEWW!
SURE BABES! BASTA IKAW! ...SI KUYA KING...
BAKA MAY MAKITA TAYO RITO NA PWEDENG COSTUME...
"MAYA MEDUSA"
SANTANA '07
EEEEEE! SNAKES! HELLP!
BABES!
SUPER INGGO!
ZAAAAPP
NANDITO NA AKO! WAG KANG MATAKOT!
SUPER INGGO! HURRY! THEY GONNA BITE MEEE! EEIII!

WRITTEN BY JEFFREY M. ONG

MARAMING SNAKES! MAILIGTAS PA KAYA NG BIDA ANG BABES NIYA?
ABANGAN SA SUPER INGGO 1.5, ANG BAGONG BANGIS! SA SABADO, 5:45 PM, SA ABS-CBN!

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

YOU OKAY, MOM?
YEAH.
JUST
THINKING.
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HAVE AN HOUR TO MYSELF TO PUT MY FEET UP AND RELAX WITHOUT SOMEBODY WANTING ME TO COOK FOR, CLEAN UP AFTER OR DRIVE THEM SOMEWHERE.
OH.
YOU MEAN IN ADDITION TO MOTHER'S DAY?
11/25

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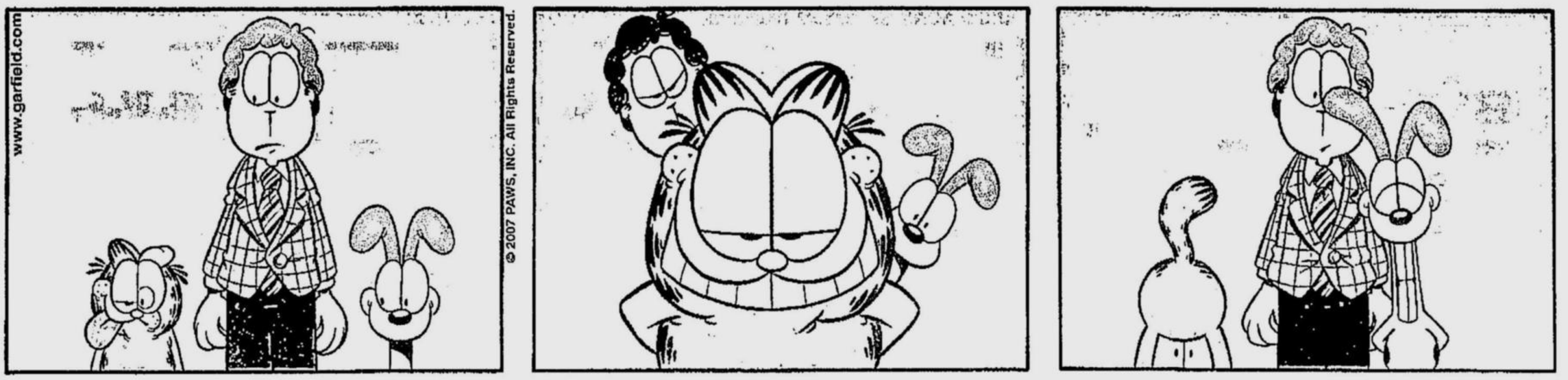
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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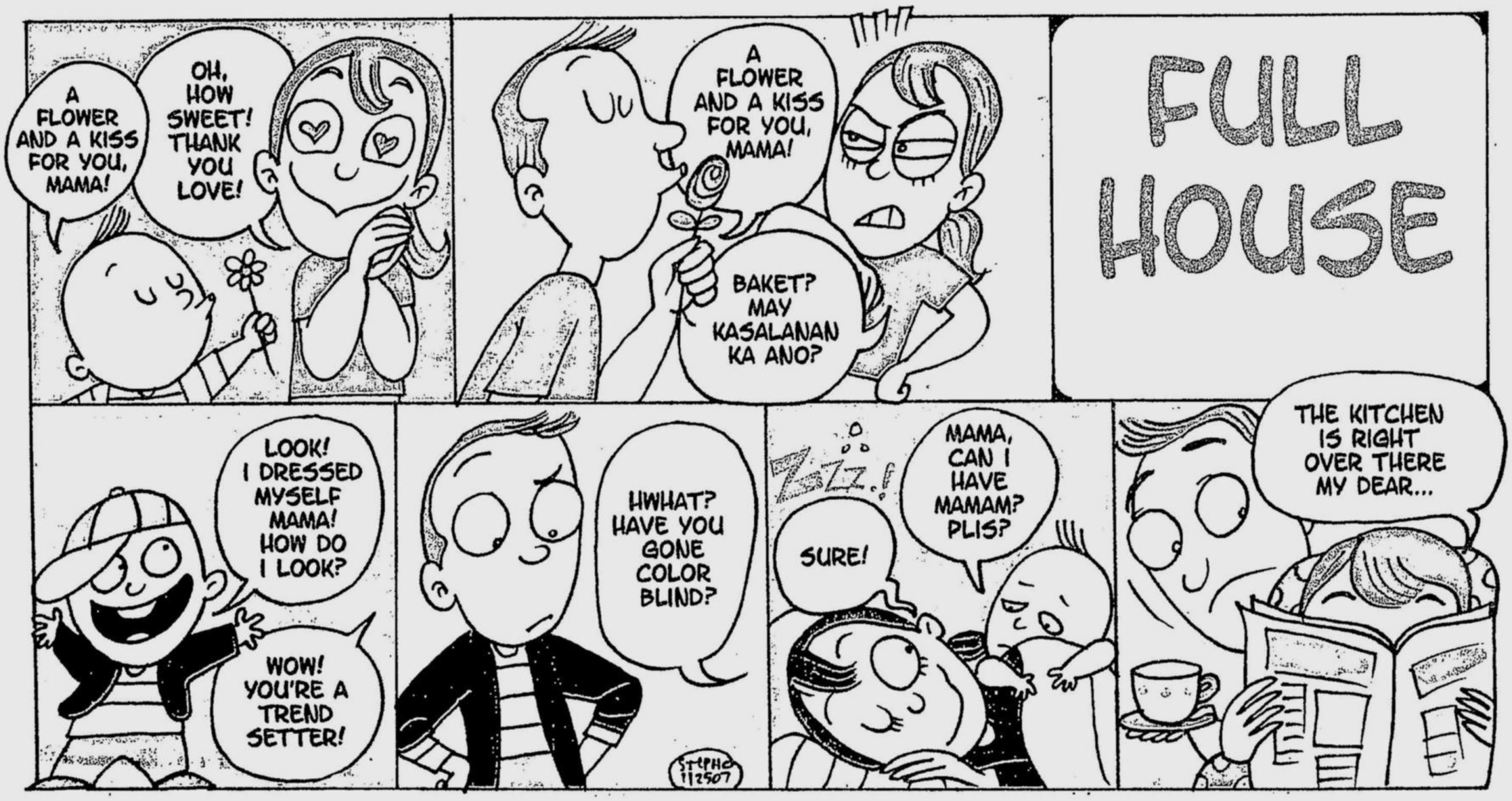
JIM DAVIS 11-25
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
NONE OF THESE WILL WORK FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CARD!
I KNOW. YOU'RE NOT SMILING IN ANY OF THEM

FULL HOUSE

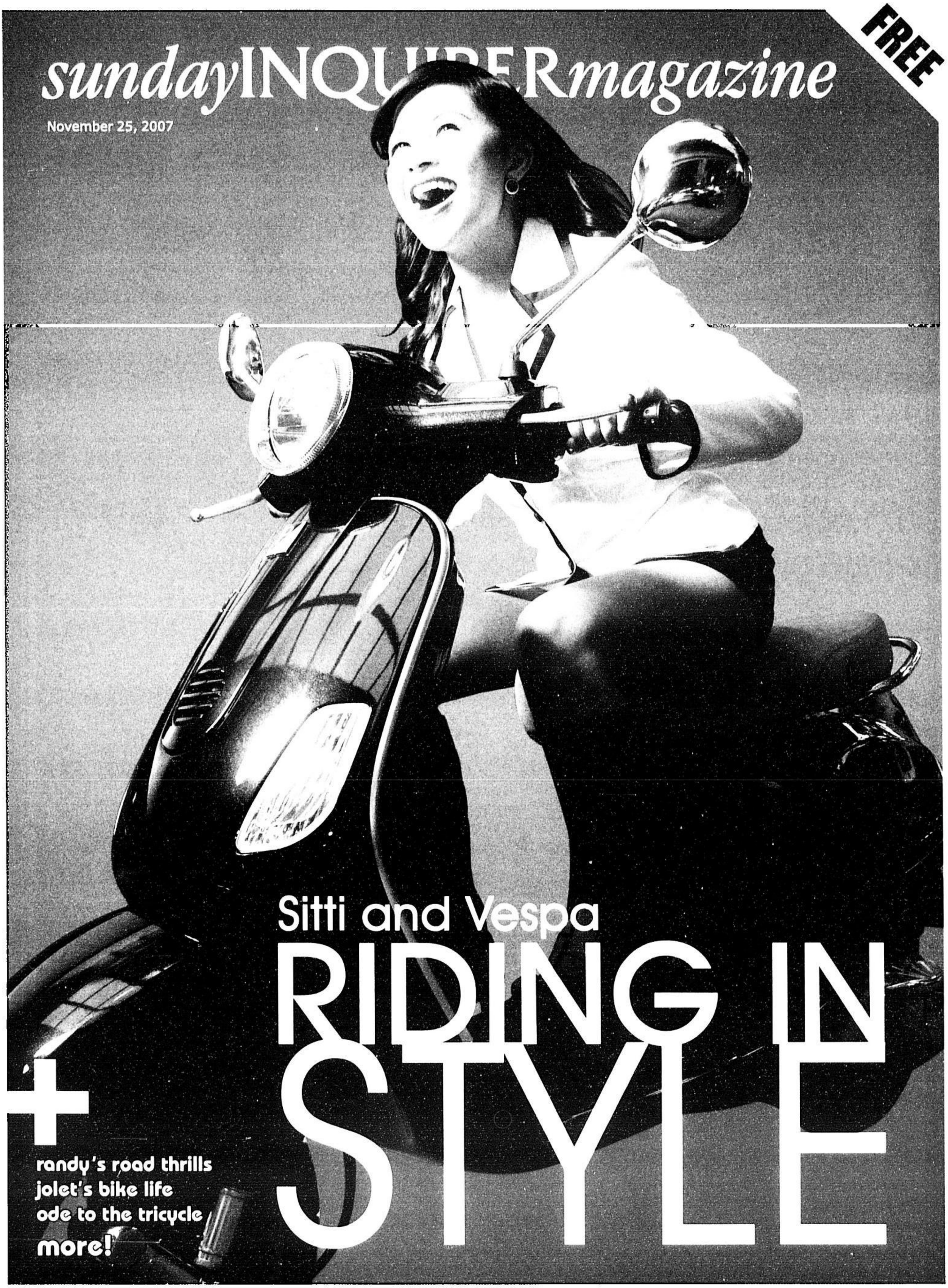
STEPH BRAVO


A FLOWER AND A KISS FOR YOU, MAMA!
OH, HOW SWEET! THANK YOU LOVE!
A FLOWER AND A KISS FOR YOU, MAMA!
BAKET? MAY KASALANAN KA ANO?
FULL HOUSE
LOOK! I DRESSED MYSELF MAMA! HOW DO I LOOK?
WOW! YOU'RE A TREND SETTER!
HWHAT? HAVE YOU GONE COLOR BLIND?
STEPHO 112507
ZZZ...!
MAMA, CAN I HAVE MAMAM? PLIS?
SURE!
THE KITCHEN IS RIGHT OVER THERE MY DEAR...

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

November 25, 2007

FREE



Sitti and Vespa

RIDING IN STYLE

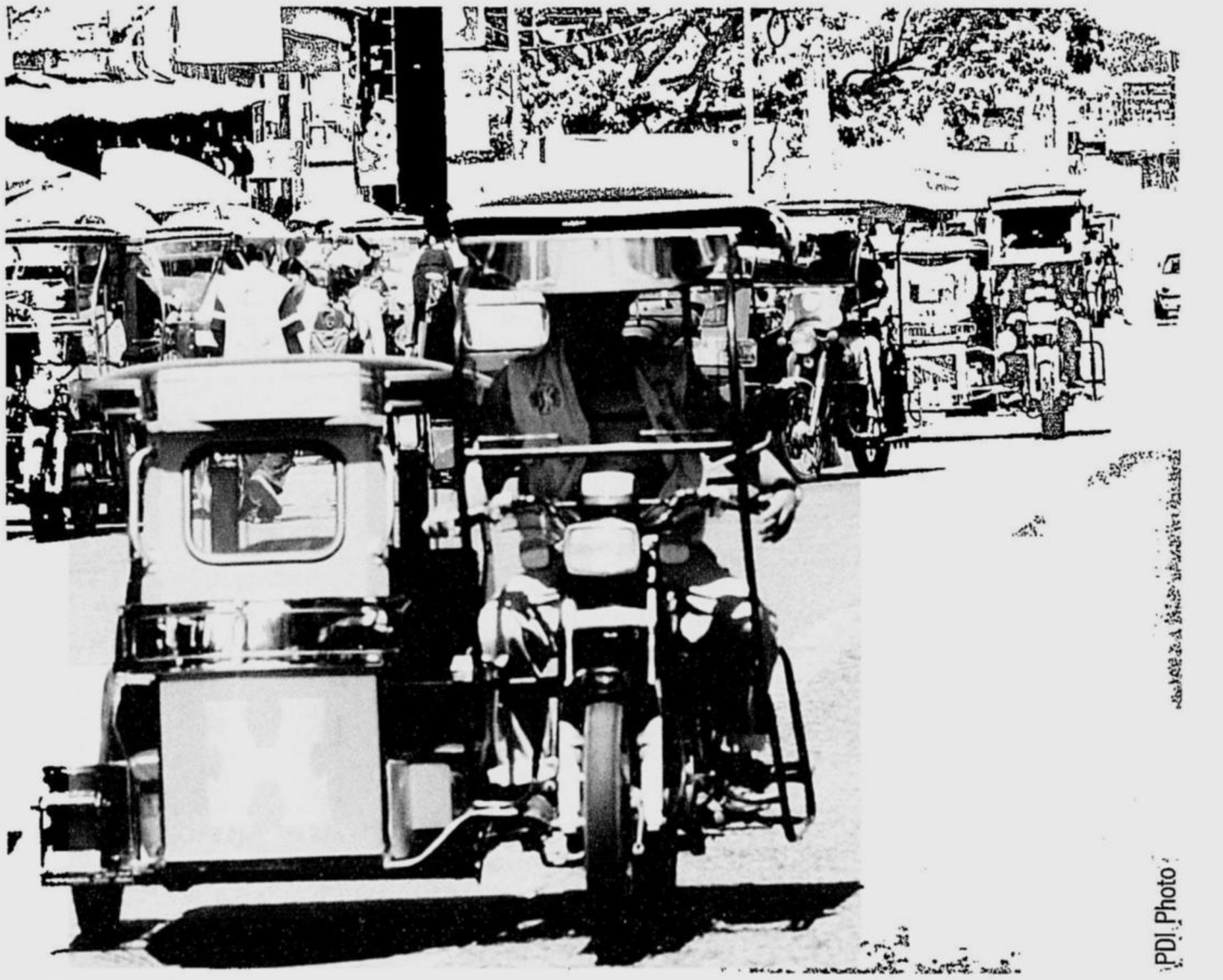
+

randy's road thrills
jolet's bike life
ode to the tricycle
more!

Essay
By Michael L. Tan

Small But Terrible

On the one hand, tricycles fill in gaps in public transport and provide livelihood for our poorer cousins. At the same time though, riding the tricycle reinforces two national phobias: walking and getting dark from exposure to the sun



PDI Photo

Mind the gap: Tricycles serve needs

IT was June 2002, happier days when Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had just become president, riding high on hopes for change. And what better venue could she have chosen to express the country's hopes than in the first national summit of the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association, or TODA, held in Quezon City. The President actually addressed the summit with a rare show: "*Kasi di ba maliiit ang traysikel, kasing liit ko ngunit malaki naman ang naiaambag sa ekonomiya, pati na rin sa ikabubuti ng mamamayan* (Because aren't tricycles small, just like me? But they contribute immensely to the economy and to the welfare of the people)."

Arroyo and other politicians rightly recognize the importance of tricycles and tricycle drivers in the country. In the last elections there was even a party list, Biyaheng Pinoy, claiming to represent the country's tricycle drivers. Its nominee for Congress was Arsenio Abalos, brother of the controversial, now erstwhile, Comelec head.

I do not have the exact figures but I suspect that tricycle driving is probably the leading occupation in the country, with the number of tricycle drivers running into several hundreds of thousands. They're organized into hundreds, maybe even thousands, of drivers' associations, each confined to a particular geographical area.

Most tricycle drivers are fiercely territorial since driving is their only livelihood. Given that these are really souped-up motorcycles, tricycles have their limits when it comes to speed and accessible distances. They're pretty much meant for short-distance travel, usually from a main highway into a subdivision, or areas not served by jeepneys and buses.

I've always been ambivalent about the tricycle and its poorer cousins, such as the pedicab, which relies solely on human pedal power. In rural areas in Mindanao, there's the well-known Skylab, which is really a motorcycle fitted with wood planks that make it look like, well, a Skylab, and on which the passengers sit. The Skylab is built that way to navigate the rough unpaved roads in many rural areas, sometimes even making its way through mountainous terrain. Call it Extreme Public Transportation.

Then, too, there's the sidecar which can be motorized or powered by human pedaling. The sidecar allows small businesses to operate a home delivery system for food, beverages, bottled water, LPG tanks and smaller grocery items.

The tricycle and its cousins can, on one hand, be praised for the way they fill our gaps in public transport. At the same time though, I sometimes feel the tricycle reinforces two national phobias: walking and getting dark from exposure to the sun. In the area where my parents live, at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Wilson near the Greenhills Shopping Center, you'll find a small battalion of pedicabs that mainly ferry people from that corner to Cardinal Santos Hospital. The distance is about half a kilometer, but many of the hospitals' workers will insist on taking the pedicab, which charges P10 a ride. It's their choice of course, but I would think they'd be healthier if they just walked that short stretch.

Tricycles and pedicabs do serve legitimate needs, such as when one is coming home with heavy bags from work, or from the market or grocery. They're also a blessing when you're caught in a sudden downpour. And yes, one could argue that thousands of families live on the tricycle drivers' earnings, but as a public health person, I fear that these tricycles will cost us more with the health problems that these drivers are courting, including respiratory diseases and cancer from all those toxic substances, fumes and emissions that they're constantly exposed to. Many of them smoke as well, which makes it worse.

The tricycles also have a way of violating every known traffic rule, tangling up traffic, and threatening life and limb. Sometimes I think it's because the tricycle drivers' brains have been fried from all those vehicular pollutants. But sometimes, too, I think that accidents come as part of the tricycle drivers' machismo. Besides goading each other to their own versions of Grand Prix formula racing, they're notorious for harassing women passers-by. . . or worse.

Most tricycle drivers are only living up to the machismo tradition started by bus and jeepney drivers, but tricycle driving creates new opportunities for sexual harassment and abuse not present in buses and jeepneys. Nothing could be worse than for a woman to be taking a tricycle at night, alone.

All said, I'd like to see the day when we can phase out jeepneys and tricycles. Easier said than done, of course, given that we'd need a more efficient public transport system, and more jobs that can take in these drivers. Not to mention, Filipinos taking to walking. •

Kris: Now, I only trust Facial Care Centre for my skin.

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Kris says, "Women should try Facial Care Centre. They deserve it. They have the best non-surgical skin technology, personalized service and such a pleasant environment. If you're a woman who knows you've reached a point in your life where you can afford the best because you've worked hard to attain that, you deserve to be pampered by Facial Care Centre. Discover them for yourself. I'm so glad I did."

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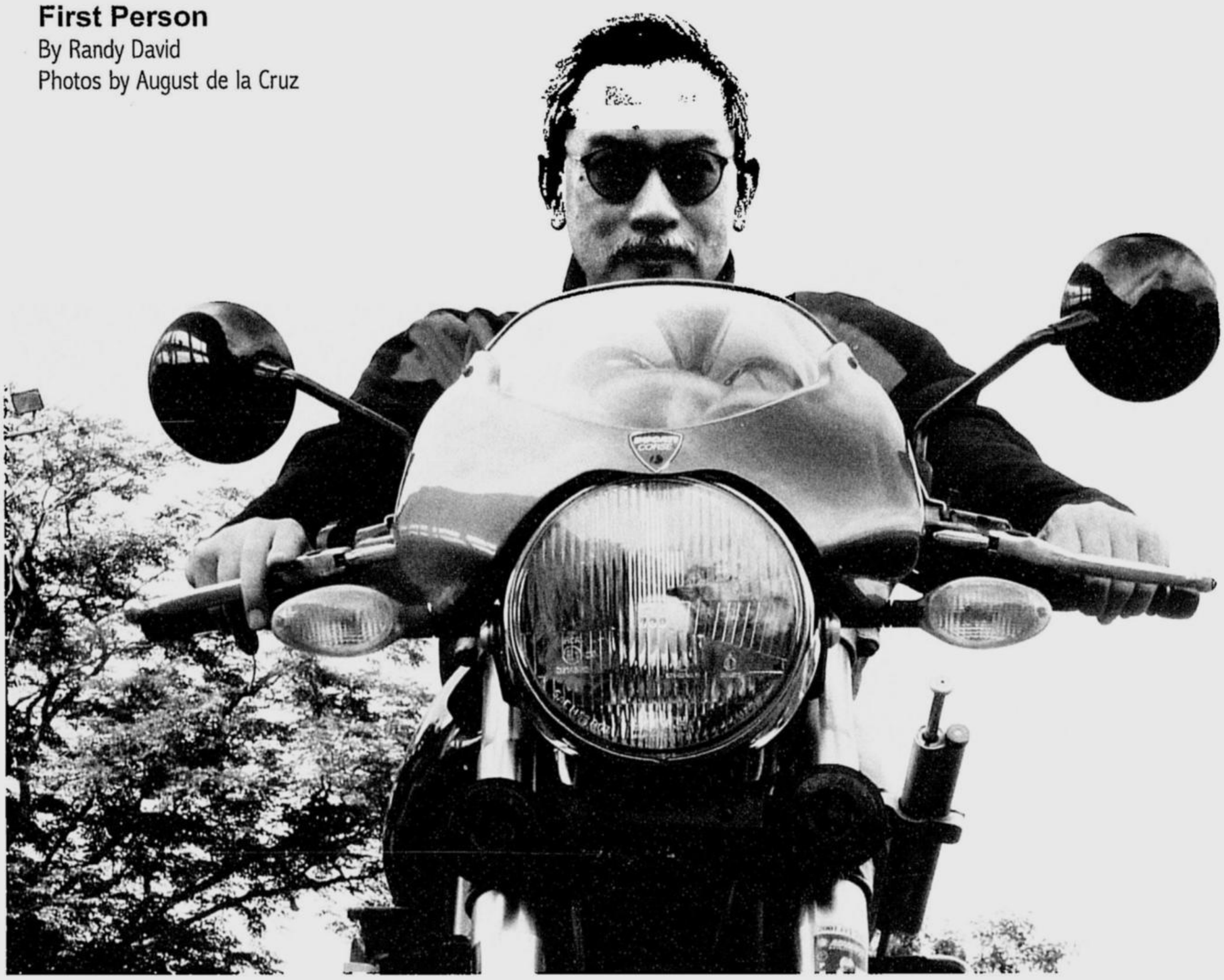
First Person

By Randy David

Photos by August de la Cruz



Confessions of a motorcycle rider

It's not easy to explain it- -this touch of deviance and danger that gives texture to our uni-linear lives

I STARTED riding a motorcycle in the mid-1960s after my maternal grandfather gave me a second-hand Ducati 160cc Junior Monza as a graduation gift. He said he couldn't afford the VW Beetle that I had wished for, so would I settle for a motorcycle?

I knew nothing about motorcycles, much less about the venerable name that this particular bike quietly bore on its tank. It had been used for two years in remote rural roads by my grandfather's sales people, and the condition of its tires clearly showed its proletarian past. As I recall, there was nothing special about the bike. Anyone could have attached a sidecar to it and used it as a tricycle, and that would not have been a big deal. I was 20 and in graduate school. Apart from the small monthly stipend that came with my fellowship, I earned no money. The bike gave me mobility at minimal expense; it was a functional vehicle.

Was I expressing a youthful yearning for freedom and identity when I began to ride? Most certainly not. My first bike projected none of the semiotic values that I later learned to look for in motorcycles. Because I was not an enthusiast then, I could not see beyond a bike's practicality.

I think one becomes a motorcycle enthusiast when one begins to see this vehicle not so much as a means of transport but as a work of art, a technological achievement, a prized possession, a toy. The pleasure that one draws from it comes not so much from its utility as a vehicle but from its production pedigree and meticulous composition as a machine. I know some aficionados who permanently park their motorcycles in their living room as part of the furniture. In the world of motorcycles, that's a perfectly valid reason for buying one. An enthusiast never buys a bike for sheer utilitarian reasons.

First of all, passionate bikers typically ride not to reach a place. It's the other way around; they mark a place and plan a route in order to ride. The ride itself is the goal; the destination is only the means. Riders do stop in the middle of nowhere to marvel at the scenery or to smell the flowers—but that's only a bonus. The main point is the ride. Enthusiasts who ride to work are therefore the exception to the rule. Most bikers ride when they are not working. That's why they mostly ride on Sundays.

It took a while before I graduated from being just a functional rider. For one, at my salary as a university instructor, I simply could not afford a big bike. Moreover, my kids were growing up, and I dreaded the thought of making them orphans so early. But for some reason, I could not get away from motorcycles.

My next bike was a Honda XL100, essentially a road bike with good suspension that made it suitable for rough roads and river crossings. It was inexpensive and easy to maintain, and I used it to commute to school as well as to navigate mountain trails on weekends. When I became very busy, the Honda languished in the garage like an unwanted pet. I decided that the family driver would have better use for it and sold it to him for a song.

While I stopped riding for many years, I never stopped dreaming of one day getting myself a

Boylit de Guzman

Benjie Luna

"Illusioning as a Steve McQueen," says the author of his motorcycle jaunts. With the Hombres (above, right)

powerful bike I could ride in the wind. I guess speed is every man's fantasy. Which one it will be—a plane, a sports car, or a motorcycle—is pure contingency, as it was for me. One day in 2001, I found myself using the back road of P. Tuazon in Cubao to avoid the congestion on Edsa. While waiting for the traffic to move, I casually glanced at the show window of the motorcycle store by the roadside. In that instant, my eyes caught the stunning apparition of the new Ducati 916cc Monster S4, with its bullet gray tank, trellis frame, and bright red wheels. On an impulse, as if drawn by an irresistible force, I pulled over and entered the store. At that precise moment, my youthful memories of those early Ducati rides flashed and fused with an unrelieved thirst for speed and adventure. I could not take my eyes off this exquisite machine. Only then did I realize what Ducati has done to the motorcycle. The following week, I withdrew all my savings and bought the S4. I never looked back since. My only regret is that it took me so long to go back to riding.

My wife was pleasantly shocked to find my new toy parked right in the sala of our home. "Nice!" she exclaimed, and I knew right then and there that I had married the right woman. That evening, we took the Ducati for a spin around the same acacia-lined campus that we used to circle as a young couple on my first Ducati. I am aware that most bikers' spouses are not as receptive to the idea of a dangerous indulgence like motorcycling. I suppose I am lucky to have married someone who could appreciate the thrill of living dangerously. I didn't want to have all that thrill for myself however. In the beginning, my wife would ride pillion with me. Later, I decided to get her a lighter bike so she could ride on her own with ease.

Until recently, I have mostly ridden alone, combining motorcycling with bird watching. Some think these are contradictory pursuits. In my case, they go together. On some weekends, I start out early and ride my motorcycle to the Makiling Botanical Garden in Los Baños. After a quick breakfast, I take out my binoculars and walk up the ascending trail of this tranquil bird sanctuary. It is always a precious moment. Alone with my senses, I track the slightest movement among the trees as it rustles the leaves. It is not so different from riding—alone on my bike at 160 kph, I scan the smallest objects in a fleeting field of vision just before they melt into a blur.

These days I ride with a small group that calls itself "Hombres." It is a non-exclusive group. There are virtually no requirements for membership, except a basic capacity to look after a buddy. We ride all brands of motorcycles. We like to think of ourselves as a band of grown-up men from diverse backgrounds, driven by varying levels of sociability and madness. The average age is about 50. The oldest in our group is a 76-year-old Pinoy version of Arnold Schwarzenegger who drives a 1,000cc sports bike. He sets the standard for the life-span of a good rider.

Our recent trips have taken us to Bicol, Panay, Bukidnon, Ilocos, Subic, and Baguio. These long strenuous rides on sometimes rough terrain have made it necessary for me to get a second bike, the 1000cc Aprilia Caponord, a dual-purpose tourer. On ordinary weekends, when we drive to Angeles or to Tagaytay for breakfast and camaraderie, I still prefer the sportier and faster Ducati.

I try not to ride on city streets except when I am going or coming from elsewhere outside Metro Manila. You don't see big bikes weaving in and out of city traffic. They lack the suicidal agility of the "underbones" and are likely to overheat in traffic.

I still live on the UP Diliman campus, where I have taught for 40 years. Yet I rarely ride a motorcycle to school. A naked Ducati or a red giant trailie like the Caponord attracts too much attention in an academic parking lot. I make it a point however to ride around the campus every night after the school's main gates, except one, have closed. The quietest hours are those just before midnight, when the cool air is softly scented with ylang-ylang and dama de noche blossoms. The roving guards already know me. I can almost hear what they say when they see me pass: "There goes the professor again, racing in the dark against himself."

It's not easy to explain it—this touch of deviance and danger that gives texture to our unilinear lives. •

The author is a professor of Sociology at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and a columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Text and photos by Margaux Salcedo

BIG IN BITE

Being more of a watering hole than a serious restaurant, Handlebar is highly conducive to bonding and a relaxed night of great conversation. Bring your appetite and friends as the servings are big enough for sharing

Biker-friendly (from top): A laid-back ambience and sizeable steaks

"THEY'RE not afraid of you," a contemplative George Hanson (Jack Nicholson) says to his two new biker friends Wyatt (Peter Fonda) and Billy (Dennis Hopper), after being turned away from a diner. "They're afraid of what you represent."

In 1969, as depicted in this epic movie "Easy Rider," you'd be lucky to find a restaurant that was biker-friendly, one that would let you in and offer you a meal. Fortunately for bikers, today's world isn't as discriminating. It would be just as easy to spot a biker at a Starbucks as it would be to spot them at Heckle and Jeckle, a bar off Makati Avenue.

"Biker-friendly" nowadays simply translates to the biker's convenience. Explains biker Ibba Rasul Bernardo, "It means there's space to park your motorcycle, and you can eat inside and watch your bike from in there..."

The best example is Handlebar, a resto-bar on Polaris Street in Makati. "Handlebar," muses Ibba, "is probably the most biker-friendly restaurant in Manila today. There's space for your bike by the al fresco smoking area and sometimes you can even bring your bike inside the restaurant." Right, a bike inside the restaurant, to pepper your potatoes with smoke from its muffler. And then I saw for myself: two gorgeous motorcycles parked by the wall inside Handlebar. I wondered if these were for real or just for riding on with the bar's theme--after all, biker shirts hang from the ceiling, stool cushions rest on what look like gas barrels, and handle bars actually sit on the walls, alongside posters of Dennis Hopper flipping the bird in that final scene of "Easy Rider."

I observe the interiors of the restaurant some more as I bite into my Baby Back Ribs, which are, by the way, more baby-ish than I expected them to be, given the hefty sizes and the reputed lifestyle of its target customers (well, riding can be tiring). I enjoy the laid-back, biker vibe of the place: A huge mural of Handlebar and the biker community hovers over the bar; wall art on a panel of the bar tickles your funny bone with an all-too-familiar logo bastardized to say Starbones Coffin; there is a loft where, rumor has it, couples have been caught expressing themselves (!); a billiards table rests on the far end of the room; and, what do you know, a glass wall allows you to watch your bike from across the street. I also note that a refrigerator full of Heineken is parked prominently behind the bar, a dead giveaway to its market. As is another refrigerator that rests by the door, displaying the evening's selection of steaks.

These steaks have brought in non-biker customers to Handlebar, gaining reputation by bikers' word of mouth since the bar opened in 2003. Good and cheap are the usual adjectives used as bait. A professor friend of mine, who prefers four wheels to two, actually visits Handlebar alone just to feast on its reasonably priced meats. I brought a steak aficionado with me on one of my visits to test this reputation. We ordered a 16 oz. Rib Eye for only P630. Having to go outside, by the grill, to pick up our steak ourselves and select the sidings we wanted was a nice treat, as it gave off a very Dixie vibe, a barbecue party feel. The steak itself, however, while passing the criteria for cheap with flying colors (a good steak nowadays averages around P1,200) , was not as good as we had hoped it would be. We couldn't believe it was Australian Angus, as we were told, because while it was tasty and delicious, it was not as tender and juicy as we expected the Australian rib-eye to be. Prepare your jaw for a bit of a workout. (The baby back ribs, priced at only P595, which I tried on a subsequent trip, was of course far more tender, but still not as good as others in the metro.)

But then again, we may have been hoping for more than we bargained for. In terms of value for money, the steak still came out a real winner, served with heaping sides of coleslaw, beans and potatoes. In fact, if you gauge the dishes by the price to serving ratio alone, you would be more than pleased. The Fish N Chips, while chopped into sausage-sized bits, come in nine to ten pieces atop a plateful of fries. Bangers and Mash present half a plate of mashed potatoes with good enough sized sausages. The Chili Fries are good for four to six. Even the soup comes in a bowl with servings good for two, for the price of one.

On price points alone, this would be an ideal hangout for the boys, giving the machos much

(continued on page 12)

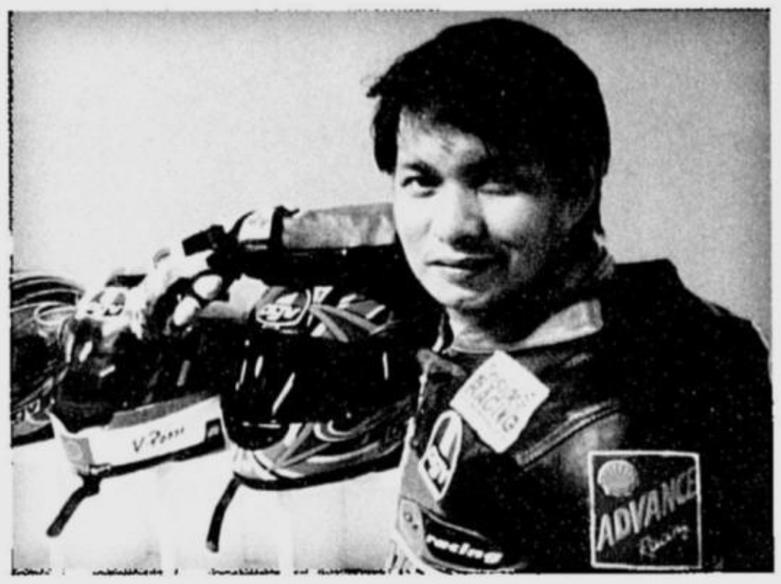
Feature

By Jasmine W. Payo

Photos by Roger Carpio

Back On His Bike

Jolet Jao has stepped off the winner's podium, but is determined to get back his superbike racing title. There's just no turning away from the daredevil racing streak that runs in the family



Wheels of fortune: Jao (above); with Eduque (left)

HARD luck hounded him like a shadow this racing season.

Still, it didn't sit quite well with superbike racing great Jolet Jao when his ten-year reign recently came to an end against a promising upstart half his age.

"*Minsan malas lang talaga* (Sometimes you're just hit by bad luck)," says Jao.

Although finishing second overall isn't so shabby, the spot feels uncomfortably new for one of the country's top riders.

Jao, technically, did no wrong this season. But his pet bike did—twice—forcing him to take one step down from the winners' podium.

"The preparation for the bike is important. The suspension, the tire, the engine—all of those are important. If you're good but you can't finish (due to a bike problem), then your skill won't matter," he stresses.

Jao recently looked poised to capture his 11th straight superbike championship when his bike chains snapped in the main event that allowed 19-year-old rookie Maico Buncio to cruise to the finish line by his lonesome.

It was a nightmarish repeat of another race leg just months earlier where Jao failed to cross the line after his bike chains broke. In another incident, Jao got hit by another rider just as he stopped to check on an engine that had conked out. Although he escaped serious injuries, the impact hurled him into the air before he fell flat on his back.

"The bike problems were unexpected," he shares. "Next time, everything will be new at every race—new chains, new tires. And even the extra engine and the extra chain will be new."

Carissa Eduque, Jao's two-year partner and race muse, adds: "The chain broke for no reason. It never happened before. But that's how we learn our lesson. Riding is no problem. His bike had a problem, that's the only reason he lost."

But by no means is the 40-year-old Jao taking these episodes as omens of an impending retirement. "(This can) only mean more challenges," he says. "There are so many high-tech bikes today. So the challenge for me is how to match those strong engines with my own skills. I go beyond my speed and try to learn more. I push myself more."

Jao doesn't mind either that he's among the senior citizens on the biking block. "The other riders are teasing him to retire, to give others a chance," shares Eduque. Agrees Jao: "There are many new riders who are really good. But it's all the more reason I want to stay. It's gotten more challenging."

The road to racing success has been quite easy for Jao. A former multi-titled motocross champion, he continues to blaze through the racing scene despite leaving the dirt track for the superbike circuit in 1996.

Along the way, Jao also scooped up several titles in the underbone and scooter racing events. "It's in his blood," notes Eduque. They're all speed fanatics—his father and one of his siblings are into surfing, another is into RCs (remote-controlled cars). They're just all in different categories."

Jao believes he owes his daredevil streak to his father, Alex, one of the pioneering road racers in the country. "I always turn to him," he says. "Whenever I have a problem, whether it's technical or personal, he always provides advice and support."

The elder Jao still dotes on the son who surpassed his own illustrious career, adds Eduque. "He's Jolet's number one fan," she says. "He calls regularly, asking how he did in the race. He always checks on Jolet."

And it's a relationship that Jao greatly values. "It's important to have a coach. In my case, it's my dad," he says. "You need one person who can look after you, who can help you, tell you what's wrong and what you need to do."

Jao adds that although riders compete on their own, competitive racers like him have a phalanx of experts and supporters working behind the scene. "You have friends helping you out, a crew helping you with your bike, and sponsors who provide for you because the sport can get very expensive."

A top-of-the-line superbike can be as expensive as a brand new car, he points out. "It's not that affordable. It can be really tough. You have to have a lot of patience in this sport. You also have to be aggressive and passionate."

And just like any sport, training can be very strenuous, with Jao spending eight to 12 hours in racing circuits in Batangas and Carmona several times a week. "You have to be physically fit, so I also run. The most important thing is stamina and practice. You have to do it over and over again," he says.

Jao's trademark focus spills over on race day. "I concentrate on the starting line. I always think I have to go first. Once ahead, I don't look back. It's really full concentration from then on," he says.

Yet the seemingly rash rider still gets his share of tournament jitters. "I still get nervous, especially at the starting line. But once the race starts, it's all gone," he says.

And surprisingly, Jao still gets all revved up after every triumph. "Until now, I feel very happy. I just enjoy the feeling of winning, especially if I'm up against very good riders. I still learn from them," he shares.

"You'd think he'd be so used to winning by now; but he remains very humble," observes Eduque. Confirms Jao: "It's really the speed, that's what I like in this sport. It has never changed."

But right now, it's his off-road trips with Eduque that are giving Jao more thrills. "We ride on our own for a date. Or we go out with friends or other groups. We ride to Infanta, Quezon or Tagaytay."

"Half of the time we're on a motorcycle," says Eduque, who still goes for a back ride with Jao despite a three-month baby bump. "Racing is his life. There's no reason for him to stop. Even if things didn't turn out as expected, that's how it is. *Ang karera may* ups and down, *parang gulong din talaga*. (A race has its ups and downs, just like a bike wheel)." •

Cover Story
By Eric S. Caruncho
Photos by Romy Homillada

Vespa Nova

Already a runaway success from the start, this utilitarian two-wheeler became a style icon when the 1953 film "Roman Holiday" showed Audrey Hepburn swept off her feet by Gregory Peck- -on a Vespa

Sitti streets: "I'm branching out, trying different things," says the bossa nova charmer of her newfound career as a sometime TV host and actress (on "Pinoy Dream Academy" and the soap opera "Ysabella," respectively). "It's a welcome opportunity to introduce myself and my music to a new audience."

EVERYTHING old is new again.

Just as Sitti dusted off her Astrud Gilberto and Brasil 66 records and refurbished the gently swaying bossa nova beat of the Sixties for a new generation of lounge lizards, so has the venerable Vespa reinvented itself for the modern era.

The Vespa, which turned 60 last year, remains an icon of Italian design—a silhouette so recognizable that it defines the motor scooter. But ever stricter emission standards in Europe and America have forced it to evolve.

Gone is the characteristic "putt-putt" of the old two-stroke engine, the haze of blue exhaust fumes, and the clunky manual shifting so loved by Vespa enthusiasts.

"The so-called modern Vespas (to distinguish them from 'vintage' Vespas') are as technologically advanced as the latest Japanese scooters," says Nani Juarez, general manager of 2211 Works Inc., the official Philippine dealer of Vespa scooters. "Not only do they comply with the new Euro 3 emissions standards, but they feature fuel injection, modern four-stroke engines, automatic transmissions, electronic CDI ignitions, updated suspensions—everything you would expect in a modern scooter."

But the Vespa retains an edge that no plastic scooter from Japan, Taiwan or China will ever have: an unbroken heritage of style that dates back to its origins in post-war Italy.

"Piaggio, the company that manufactures the Vespa, was careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water," says Juarez. "In redesigning the Vespa, they made sure they kept the design features that made it unique. So the chassis is still a monocoque stamped out of steel.

"The characteristic Vespa shape, with the wide legshield in front, the upright seating posture, and the bulbuous back were also retained. In fact, for their 60th anniversary GTV model, they brought back features from the very first Vespa, such as clip-on handlebars, leather seats and a fender-mounted headlamp."

Adds Juarez: "Some models now have engine displacements of up to 250 cc. They're more capable of long-distance touring. But they're still the ideal mode of urban transport: economical, easy to use, and above all, stylish. You're guaranteed to stand out from the horde of two-wheeled riders if you're on a Vespa."

For most of its enthusiasts—and there are a growing number locally—the Vespa is more than just a ride, he says. It's a lifestyle. Part of this is savvy marketing and product placement by Piaggio. Vespas featured prominently in such recent films as "The Bourne Ultimatum" and "Transformers." They appear regularly in fashion magazine spreads and TV commercials as a

Stylin' in Puey Quiñones, Sitti looks equally good perched on a Vespa GT200 (facing page), a Vespa LX150 (above), or a 1963 Vespa GS150 (right). Even if she doesn't really ride.

signifier of retro-modernist hip. And celebrities, from Heroes' Hayden Panettiere to the Sopranos' James Gandolfini, have been photographed riding (and sometimes crashing) their Vespas.

But part of it is also the fact that the Vespa represents a piece of appropriate technology that answers basic human needs and wants: for freedom, for mobility, for self-expression. "The key to the Vespa is that it has a soul," the head of the Italian Vespa Club was quoted as saying. "It is not just a piece of machinery."

Not bad, considering that the Vespa was originally intended as nothing more than a cheap, utilitarian mode of transport. Piaggio was originally an aircraft company, but in the aftermath of World War II, its president thought they should start small. He commissioned Corradino d'Ascanio, a helicopter designer, to come up with a cheap motor scooter to help Italians get back on their feet after their defeat. When Piaggio saw d'Ascanio's blueprint, he remarked: "*Sembra una vespa*! (It looks like a wasp!)" and the name stuck.

The first Vespa rolled out of the factory in 1946, looking pretty much as it does now. D'Ascanio disliked motorcycles, so he did away with the messy chain drive, fixing the rear wheel directly to the engine. He did away with the traditional fuel tank, resulting in a step-through design that made it easy for women in skirts to ride. He shielded the rider and the engine in the bodywork, so the riders could keep their clothes spotless (an important consideration for Italians).

The Vespa was a runaway success from the start, but its birth as a style icon can be traced back to one defining moment: the scene in the 1953 film "Roman Holiday" when slumming princess Audrey Hepburn is swept off her feet by dashing journalist Gregory Peck--on a Vespa. It did for the Vespa what Marlon Brando's "The Wild One" did for the motorcycle: transform it into a symbol.

In the 1960s, the fashion-obsessed Mod youth subculture emerged in Britain. Naturally, their chosen means of transport was the scooter, since it allowed them to ride without getting any grease on their bespoke Italian suits. Thus started the scooter-as-lifestyle phenomenon, which has undergone periodic revivals since then.

Locally, the cult of the Vespa has experienced a growth spurt in recent years, fueled by the entry of the modern Vespas and the continued fetishization of the vintage ones. Local aficionados bond together through organized group rides, the annual Vespa Attack scooter rally, and through internet forums such as *Vespinoy.com* and *Euroscoot.net*. Last year, the Vespa Club of the Philippines was organized. It recently launched its own internet forum as well.

Vespa enthusiasts form a subset of the emerging Pinoy scooter culture. Spiralling fuel costs and worsening traffic congestion, together with the introduction of inexpensive "underbone" scooters available on installment have seen two-wheeled vehicle sales go through the roof (together with a corresponding increase in road accidents). Granted, Vespa aficionados tend to be older, better educated and financially better off than the typical underbone enthusiast (the modern Vespas costing many times more than the average Japanese or Chinese scoot). But for both, their rides signify the same things as the first Vespas did for their owners: a means of freedom, mobility, and self-expression. •

Surviving the Urban Jungle on Two Wheels

1. Always wear a helmet and gloves. You never know when you might need them.

2. Be visible at all times. Day or night, wear clothes that are bright, or use a reflectorized vest or stickers.

3. Focus on your riding. Don't daydream. Better think of other things when you reach your destination.

4. Ride within your limits. Riding skills improve with more saddle time.

5. Look far. The farther you look the more information you get of what's ahead that should help you evaluate traffic situations and other safety concerns.

6. Maintain a minimum gap of two seconds from the vehicle in front of you. More gap, more reaction time.

7. Be courteous to other motorists. Respect the rights of others when using the road.

8. Educate yourself. Improve your riding by reading informative materials on it.

9. Obey traffic rules and regulations. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

10. Never drink and ride. Most crashes involve alcohol.

Ride safe always!

Nani Juarez, a.k.a. "Dr. Scoot," technical editor of "Scooterista" magazine

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Feature
By Tony M. Maghirang

Easy Rider

DJ Crystal takes her road trip on the air

DJ Crystal: High on scootering

SHERYLL Louise Crystal rides a white Vespa scooter and gets to her appointments on time despite Manila's horrendous traffic. Her other ride is a white Volkswagen, but she prefers her 1997 model Vespa PX 150 to cope with her busy schedule.

More popularly known as DJ Crystal, Sheryll is the host of the Daybreak Show, the pre-dawn program on Magic 89.9.FM, that airs from 3 to 6 a.m. Monday to Friday. She's an insomniac subsisting on, at most, three hours of sleep a day to recharge herself. To fill up long waking hours especially during her weekend day-off, she takes up all manner of "rackets" available to media folk, like hosting events at malls, children's parties and even weddings.

"When traffic in Manila became so bad and my car was in the shop, it was difficult for me to commute, especially during the Christmas season. In my line of work, I have to go from one place to another really quick, so it was tough without my own ride," she recounts.

"Three years ago, a good friend of the Magic's station manager told me he was selling his Vespa PX 150. I was thrilled. It was The Wasp with its classic style that I really like in a scooter. I test drove The Wasp the following day and it worked beautifully. I bought it the 29th of December."

She likes it so much she has christened it Ding. It consumes unleaded gas with a mileage of approximately 20 km. to the liter. It also has provisions for a back rider, and the lady DJ makes sure that the occasional back rider is in full protective gear as she is. Back riders, she explains, have greater chances of sustaining serious injuries because they usually don't know how to crash properly in the event of a collision.

Crystal is no stranger to bikes. She rode a BMX when she was a kid and roamed about in a motorcycle when she got older. In a family of four girls, she admits to having the closest affinity with two-wheeled transport. She's handy with tools and personally trouble shoots her Vespa for minor problems.

Although she's all geared up in the mandatory protective helmet, pads and jacket when she rides, Sheryll confesses to having had a number of accidents while riding. She recalls: "Two hours after I got my Vespa, I had my first *semplang* (spill) and it was a dumb one. Compared to other models, the PX 150 is heavy. I failed to handle its weight while parking it on the stand, and it keeled over to one side. It's a good thing it had no scratches after the fall."

Maintaining a balance proved useful when she met a road accident. She had just left a shoot for a TV show around midnight and was cruising along Timog Ave. in Quezon City when an unlighted passenger jeepney moving in the opposite lane suddenly swerved towards her side of the road. The other vehicle made a fast turn and she hardly had time to brake. She hit the side of the jeepney.

DJ Crystal remembers, "I had to let go of the scooter. Otherwise, it could topple to one side with me along with it. Who knows what kind of injuries I might have sustained? Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to make a proper crash. The bike remained upright after ramming the jeepney's side. I was wearing my full gear on top of my beautiful outfit for the previous show but I sustained bruises on my knees. The stupid driver shouted that I was driving too fast then drove off without even bothering to see how I was!"

To say the least, it was an earth-shaking experience for Sheryll. Bike drivers, she realized, are most vulnerable on the road because of the absence of the protective metal enclosures of a heavier four-wheeled car. But since she's really into two-wheeled transport, she brushed these scary thoughts aside, arguing that she's in the business of living life to the fullest. Her friends at 2211 Works, a scooter servicing center, just as easily and quickly restored her Vespa PX 150 to its classic condition.

Sheryll's love for Ding the Vespa extends to her Magic music program, where she started a segment called Scooterista Life. On the show, she talks about new developments in the scootering world and provides tips on road safety and improving the efficiency of scooters for newbie drivers.

DJ Crystal is big on safety. She even scores most riders for failure to get proper licensing to drive a two-wheeled motor vehicle. She explains, "Most riders buy a motor bike and then go off zigzagging even on busy streets with the entire family on back ride. Not many of them even know they have to get a license with restrictions 1 and 2 to drive a motor bike. The police know this, and I bet many of the citation tickets being issued these days cite non-compliance with these restrictions."

With Scooterista Life, she is able to reach out to numerous scooter clubs, which once showed their clout when 3,000 of their members rallied in front of the Land Transportation Office to protest a plan to put the license number on their crash helmets. She had always wanted to join a scooter group, but pressure from a workaholic's routine would not allow her to scooter away with kindred spirits on occasional out of town group biking trips and similar activities during weekends.

Her only misgiving, a small one at that, is that you tend to smell funny after braving the smoke and grime from heavy traffic. Being early for an appointment gives her time to freshen up to do away with the sticky smell of street pollution. It's definitely a small price to pay to breeze through life's rugged roads, which is what this plucky rider is doing. •

Feature
By Mio de la Cruz

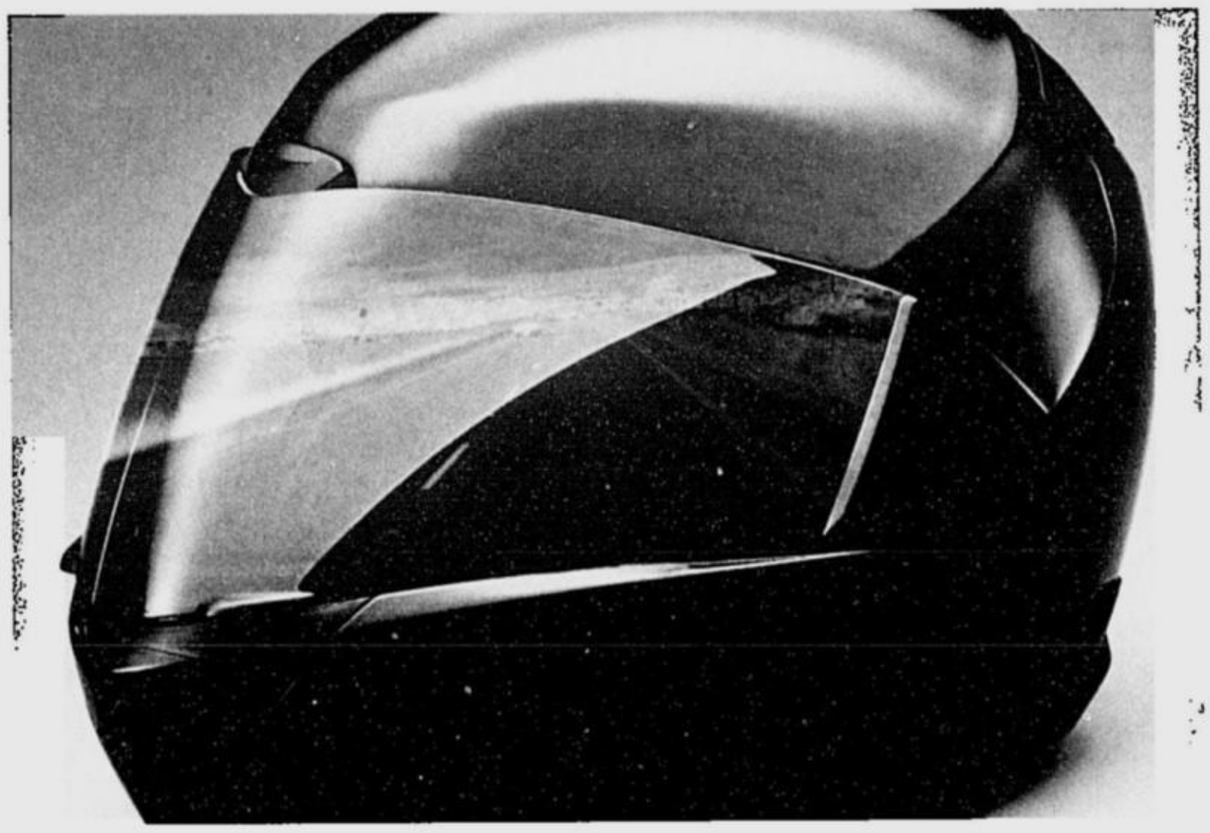
The Fast, the Furious and the Pinoy

High on speed, young cyclists flout the law and push the limits of safety in illegal drag racing

IT happens at the unholiest of hours, late at night or very early morning. Figures emerge from the darkness, and in an instant, teen marshals are all over the place, taking control of the traffic, signaling vehicles to stop or slow down or make a detour, as young boys dash out in modified scooters they call "*kinalikot* (tinkered with)." The race is on.

Scenes like this have become common in a number of major streets in Metro Manila. Teenage boys in rubber slippers, shorts, and undershirts congregate to rev up the motor of their scooters for the sheer joy of racing, and perhaps to win a thousand pesos or so on the side.

The self-appointed referee gives the signal, the cyclists step on the gas, and they're off—dangerously weaving in and out of the lanes of other speeding vehicles in a race to the designated finish line before law enforcers appear to break up the action. Traffic enforcers barely manage to catch the racers. "They are too fast for us," admits a law enforcer. "They use narrow roads to escape." The police usually end up arresting only the bystanders and spectators.



The racers are often conveniently garbed in ordinary street clothes to escape being singled out in a crowd. While the police are able to stop the race, they are seldom successful in arresting race participants, who zoom away at the first wail of police sirens or the first sight of flashing lights.

During a recent raid at the Diosdado Macapagal Ave. in Pasay City, police arrested over 20 alleged drag racers but had to release them hours later because of a legal technicality. "The police made wrong arrests," recounts Henry, one of those arrested. "The real racers got away."

For most drag racers, owning a modified scooter and joining drag races are nothing more than a hobby. Hector, a regular race participant, says he has spent P70,000 to modify his equipment. He saved that up from the regular allowance he receives from his father working in Saudi Arabia.

He appears very happy, almost ecstatic, during the interview shortly after the race and the close encounter with the police. This round won him P2,000, and he looks forward to more pulse-racing action and prize money. "But I'm neither a criminal nor a drug user," he protests, when told that what he just did was illegal. "This is just a hobby."

His friend chimes in: "Even if he is caught, he can only be charged for certain minor violations, like driving without a helmet," he says. "And that can be settled amicably." Hector has, in fact, already done that once, shelling out P1,000 to a traffic enforcer to get off the hook during a similar racing incident.

Although there's often cash involved in the racing events, thrill racers are not motivated solely by money. The real kick comes from the adrenalin rush of exploring the limits of their two-wheeled machines against the competition, against other daring speedsters who risk life, limb, and, yes, liberty, for the love of racing.

Nani Juarez, a certified scooter enthusiast and known in this world as "Mr. Scoot," notes that sport scooter racing caught on with the entry of cheap scooters into the country, mostly from Japan and China. A scooter is a two-wheeled vehicle with an engine tucked under the seat and directly attached to the rear axle.

This feature allows a rider to easily start its engine, although the location of the engine puts a limitation on rear suspension quality. A scooter's overall bodywork conceals all the mechanicals within its sleek frame. It is ideal for city driving and is popular in Europe and Asia, particularly in Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, police have been trying to stamp out street racers. but with little success.

The latest breed of scooter could give the big bike a run for its money because of its powerful 400cc or 650cc engine that allows it to weave effortlessly in and out of crawling traffic at high speed. But this feature is insignificant in the Philippines where motorcycles are banned from using the expressway.

Nani does warn riders that illegal scooter racing is a dangerous sport. It does not follow the same safety features and guidelines adopted by organized circuit races. First, the grounds and surrounding areas are not thoroughly checked for safety. Second, safety nets such as wearing helmets, riding shoes, and proper racing suits are not properly observed. Third, scooters are modified oftentimes by untested technicians who are always more concerned about improving the speed of the scooter rather than ensuring its safety features, thus causing a spike in motor accidents every year.

(continued on page 14)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				2			6	
		3					5	2
	4			8				
		7		4				6
			7		9			
8				6		5		
					4		7	
3	8					9		
		1		6				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/25

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Answer to previous puzzle

7	4	8	9	3	5	2	6	1
9	6	5	1	2	8	3	4	7
3	2	1	7	4	6	8	9	5
1	7	2	8	6	9	5	3	4
4	8	3	5	1	2	9	7	6
5	9	6	3	7	4	1	8	2
6	5	4	2	9	3	7	1	8
2	1	9	4	8	7	6	5	3
8	3	7	6	5	1	4	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Executive Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
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Big in Bite (from page 6)

Supersized sausages

for their money. (Drinks, though, are more expensive, beer generally priced at P100). But the macho high doesn't end there: at center stage is a big screen ideal for following soccer season, basketball games, or boxing matches. "The expats like to watch cricket or rugby so we mounted that screen," explains co-owner Ferdi Raquelsantos. True enough, on an afternoon visit (the restaurant opens at 3 p.m.), I caught sight of a white grandfather watching cricket.

That a grandfather was in the room is not too uncommon (of course, he was a tattooed super *lolo* who could bike away anytime, not your stereotypical grandpa). Neither is the sight of kids in do-rags running around or playing billiards with their biker uncles. Which made me rethink the possibly judgmental concept of the biker.

"If you're looking for a coked-out, free-loving, food tripping, Easy Rider kind of guy, you won't find him at Handlebar. It's just themed to give off that kind of biker vibe but nothing could be farther from the truth. Handlebar is like a Friday's for bikers," laughs Ibba, noting that he even holds business meetings at this resto-bar. "A lot of the men who go there are executives of multinational corporations. You have to realize that these are people who can afford Harleys!" adds Monch Gupit. I suddenly pictured myself bringing a biker dude home to meet my folks, crying, "But mom, he's family-oriented!" I bet I would still get swatted with a newspaper in reply.

But you could bring your family to Handlebar. "It's one of the safest places to eat at," insists Ibba. And I agree. I would not hesitate to bring a group of friends here—both boys and girls—for drinks or even dinner after a movie. It's a great gathering place.

Should you consider following suit, here's the pre-ride. Never go for lunch on a weekday (minus Friday) or you will be met by closed doors, as the restaurant opens at 3 p.m. If you hop in early in the afternoon, don't expect spectacular service—the waiters may be playing billiards with a regular and the food may be served after a 20-minute wait. Do come on a weekend, when they have their barbecue nights, to experience your steak being grilled before your eyes and by the road, and to enjoy the vibe of the biker community. You won't even need to talk to anyone; when you're surrounded by people who make the most of the world and what it has to offer, the aura is just amazing, Just being there will make you smile. (Unless that was just me, smiling like a fool to anyone who would reciprocate!) Don't come with high expectations of the food, because although big steaks with cheap prices are always a come on, there is really nothing spectacular on the menu, Handlebar being more of a watering hole, really, than a serious restaurant. But do bring your appetite and a lot of friends, because the servings here are for American football players, perfect for sharing among us Pinoys, and the place is highly conducive to talking, bonding, a relaxed night of fun, and great conversation. Better than the steak, it would be hard to stop bingeing once you get a taste of that. •

Handlebar. 31 Polaris Street, Bel Air, Makati. 898-1976. Casual, come as you are. Parking on the street. Major credit cards accepted. Wheelchair access from the street, restaurant is on the ground floor.

FICTION

By Dean Francis Alfar

Illustration by Zeon

'Chasing Aurora'

SHE'S framed by the pillars of the Belmonte Station of the LRT line when I find her, smoking a slender cigarette exactly as I was briefed she would be, exhaling equally thin wisps of grey from her thin lips. The trains stopped moving hours ago, but there is the echo of motion, surrounding her like a phantom embrace. At first sight, she is a disappointment, all skin and bones covered by clothing old enough to have become fashionable again. She is slim in a way that is not flattering, and her hair is cropped, jagged darkness. Against the backdrop of the train's supporting structure, she is as small as a child, dwarfed and reduced in context to just another background detail. It is only when I'm close enough to touch her that she looks up, looks at me and I am caught in the intensity of her eyes.

"It's P300 to touch me." The words exit her mouth in a dull cadence, like soldiers performing the same pointless maneuvers, practiced, polished and fatigued beyond expectation. "Midnight special."

"I'm sorry," I say, turning my face away. "I did not come for any of that."

"You won't find any cheaper around here," she says, leaning over to scratch the backside of her knee. "Except for Avenida, but there's a difference between those who do it to live and those who do it out of desperation. And she's sick, sicker than you can imagine."

"Aurora?"

At my question, she stiffens, pulls herself up to her full height, which could be no more than a few inches past five feet.

"Are you Aurora? Please, I just want to talk."

"Who wants to know?" Our eyes meet again, the ennui in hers replaced by suspicion and fear; I try to hide the pity in mine.

"A friend," I tell her, keeping my voice even and colorless. During the rigorous training regimen I undertook when I was promoted, it was drilled into my head to never give them a reason to run. Because Roads, when they run, are very difficult to catch. I remember asking my handler if he was joking. It seemed

> Her form blurs and for an instant becomes a wraith, like the notion of something not quite there but with enough detail to cause doubt.

obvious to me that a Road could not go beyond where it began or ended.

"Leave me alone," she snarls. Then she runs.

Her form blurs and for an instant becomes a wraith, like the notion of something not quite there but with enough detail to cause doubt. Then she is gone, leaving behind shimmering afterimages that dissolve into the night air split-seconds behind her trail.

I focus and let my feet move, stomping my right foot first then my left, the prescribed initial dance steps of pursuit. Moving Roads may be difficult to catch, but not impossible, not anymore. As buildings twist around me, I am visited again by the nausea provoked by my actions. I swallow the sourness and run after her.

I'm chasing Aurora. I'm pursuing a Boulevard. I'm trembling and having the time of my life.

Around me, the distortion grows. Buildings, people and vehicles fade, replaced by swaths of color. Where Roads travel is confusing and dangerous. I blink my eyes and focus on her undeniable trail.

I do not notice the direction she is running towards; after all, Old Man Cubao's attention is elsewhere, that much I know. Too late I realize that she's running towards someone else. Another Road.

"Ed!" I hear her shout. "Ed!"

"No," I say under my breath, realizing the inevitable intersection she tore towards. I see EDSA too late, as in one fluid motion he takes her to one side with an arm corded with muscle and strikes at my face with a fist that seems larger than the moon. I feel my nose break and I scream, falling to the ground in pain. There is no love lost between cruel EDSA and myself. During our first and only encounter he had proven himself more than my match.

EDSA pounds at me again and I taste blood in my mouth. I lose count of the times I'm struck, curling myself into a ball in a vain effort to protect the rest of my face from his hands. He is relentless; I think I'm dying.

"Enough, Ed!" I hear Aurora's voice through the red haze. "Enough." •

The Fast, the Furious, and the Pinoy (from page 11)

Police authorities say they need stricter laws to curb drag racing. Under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1602 or the Illegal Gambling Law, car racing is considered illegal if money or articles of value are at stake. But there is no law that addresses the problem of illegal racing of motorcycles and ordinary scooters.

Under Senate Bill No. 13 or the Anti-illegal Drag Racing Act proposed by Sen. Bong Revilla, "any person who shall participate in any manner in an illegal drag race or acceleration contest shall face a mandatory imprisonment of one year without probation and a fine of not less than P200,000."

"Even the so-called rich kids or children of the prominent and influential will be punished once this bill is passed," says Revilla, who is also a motorcycle enthusiast. "It's not only the motorists who are affected by illegal drag racing but also innocent pedestrians."

The senator, along with legitimate race organizers and responsible motorcycle enthusiasts, including Juarez, support drag racing as a sport that should not be abused "to the extent of conducting it in an uncontrolled and unsecured environment that would harm both motorists and pedestrians."

Unfortunately, most young drag racers may not understand this. They picture themselves as characters from the movie "The Fast and The Furious" who are misunderstood do-gooders with a passion for speed and excitement.

"It's not enough that we impose higher fines," remarks Nani. "If the possibility of injury, and even death, cannot stop people from racing, imposing fines won't make much of a difference either."

Apparently, illegal racing has become a popular social activity not just in this country, but all over the world. It may not be completely eradicated, but it can definitely be reduced by providing people with an inexpensive, legal, and safe space to race, where they can show off their skills and modified machines in a supervised environment.

Until then, it may be wiser and safer to simply heed the young race marshals that may suddenly appear when you least expect them, and just enjoy a free show of the fast and furious Pinoy racers in action from the comfort of your car. •

Tula

Ang Paslit at ang Panahon

Alay sa alaala ni Mariannet Amper

Parang pitóng siglo nang himbing siyá sa puyo ng apat na simoy.
Totoong mahirap siyang gisíngin:
Napakabigat ng kaniyang maghapong paglalakad
Sa mga lansangan ng patay at malalansang talyer ng patalim.
Ni hindi niya nalasahan ang simoy ng musmos na talulot
O ang layaw ng paghahanap ng karayom sa dayami.
Isinisilang siya noon pa nang lumpo, dinadaya ng anghel,
At may humihigpit sa silo't bagsik ng lubid sa leeg.
Ngayon, maaaring nilalaro ng tikbalang ang kaniyang hininga,
O inililigaw ng tiyanak túngo sa talampas ng tiyak na paglímot.
Anak siyá ng ating panahon. Higit na unang nagkauban
Kaysa pinamukulan; kumapal ang palad bago nagkaregla.
Tingnan! Hindi mailingid ng basâ't basáhang saplot,
Tadtad ng tampalasang sibat ang musmos pang tagiliran.
Ang kaniyang higaan, daig pa ang biblikong sabsaban
Sa isang sulok ng malamok at umaalingasaw na barumbarong:
Tumatahip-tahip pagkalembang pahilaga ng kalawanging tren,
Humahapay-hapay pagsipol mula timog ng masungit na habagat,
Idinuduyan sa pambansang ingay ng krimen at kasalanan.
Bakit kailangan siyáng gumísing ngayon?
Upang litisin at kaladkarin sa kaniyang lumang kalbaryo?
Nagdusa na siyá. Nagdusa na siyá. Nagdurusa siyá
Sa ating pagtataksil at pang-araw-araw na kapabayaan.
Nagdurusa siyá tuwing bubulagin ng piso ang batasan;
Nagdurusa siyá tuwing bibingihin ng piso ang hukuman;
Nagdurusa siyá tuwing pipipihin ng piso ang saksi;
Nagdurusa siyá tuwing pipilayin ng piso ang tungkulin.
Nagdurusa siyá tuwing itatayâ sa piso ang ating tadhana
At tuwing ipagbibili nang kahit piso ang ating hinaharap.
Dumaloy ang ilog ng panahon at naging mahal na bathala,
Naging bangka, naging gusali… at ngayo'y pusali.
Malubha pa sa ketong ang ating dinadanas na korupsiyon;
Sagad-sa-butó ang pinsala, sagad-sa-budhi ang sirà.
At kailangan niyá ng mga sariwa't bagong hininga paggísing.
Kailangan niyá ng hiningang babaylan
Upang maibangon ang sarili mula sa minánang karamdaman:
Mula sa banig ng lalaking naghintay malaglag ang bayabas,
Mula sa baldosa ng mga babaeng baság ang magkabilâng tuhod.
Kailangan niyá ng hiningang bagani
Upang ilunsad ang walang-humpay at mabagsik na krusada
Alang-alang sa maraming musmos na gumagapang sa putik,
Alang-alang sa maraming sanggol na sumusúso ng lason.
Kailangan niyá ng hiningang asero't karbon
Laban sa modernong karayom ng kulam at kaunlaran.
Laban sa ating kasalukuyan at huwad na pag-asa,
Laban sa ating magagarbong altar at batasan ng panlilinlang.
Kailangan niyá ng hiningang hitik sa bughaw na bagwis
Upang makalipad ang haraya't isip sa píling ng planeta't bituin,
Upang maibantayog ang dakilang mithi't kalinangan ng dangal.

Rio Alma
9 Nobyembre 2007

Figure It Out

1.8 million: Total number of motorcycles registered in the Philippines as of 2006

330,151: Motorcycles registered in Metro Manila, the region with the most number of motorcycles

588,695: Total number of registered tricycles in RP as of 2006

193: Percentage increase in the number of registered motorcycles and tricycles from 1996 to 2006, from 821,599 to 2.4 million

114: Percentage increase in number of motorcycles sold from 2001 to 2005, from 230,000 to 493,000

2,798: Number of motorcycles involved in traffic accidents in Metro Manila in 2005

122: Number of motorcycles involved in fatal accidents in Metro Manila in 2006

42,000 to 45,000: Average number of motorcycles sold monthly in RP in 2006

16.8 million: Estimated total number of motorcycles sold in Asia in 2005

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: Inquirer Archives, Land Transportation Office

My Jufran® Pork Belly Cruncher? Wins My Date's Heart Everytime!

Fritz Martinez
Triathlete

With Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce, your cooking is sure to impress! Cook daily for your family, friends and loved ones using Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce–now with the all new look and still the same unique flavor. Go ahead! Experiment! The only limit is your imagination!

And if Fritz can do it for his date, you can, too. Make your own winning version of his yummy recipe.

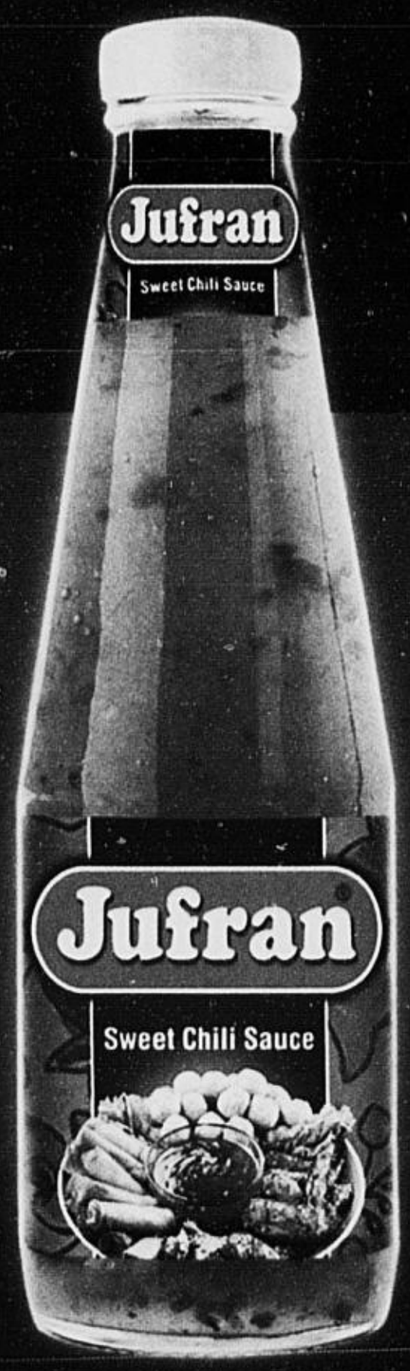
Just toss the following in a pot: 1 kilo pork liempo, 2 pcs bay leaves, 1 tbsp cracked black peppercorns, 5 pcs star anise, 1 tbsp five-spice powder, 1/4 cup fish sauce, 2 tsps salt, 2 tbsps chopped ginger and 16 cups of water. Cover and cook until pork liempo is fork tender.

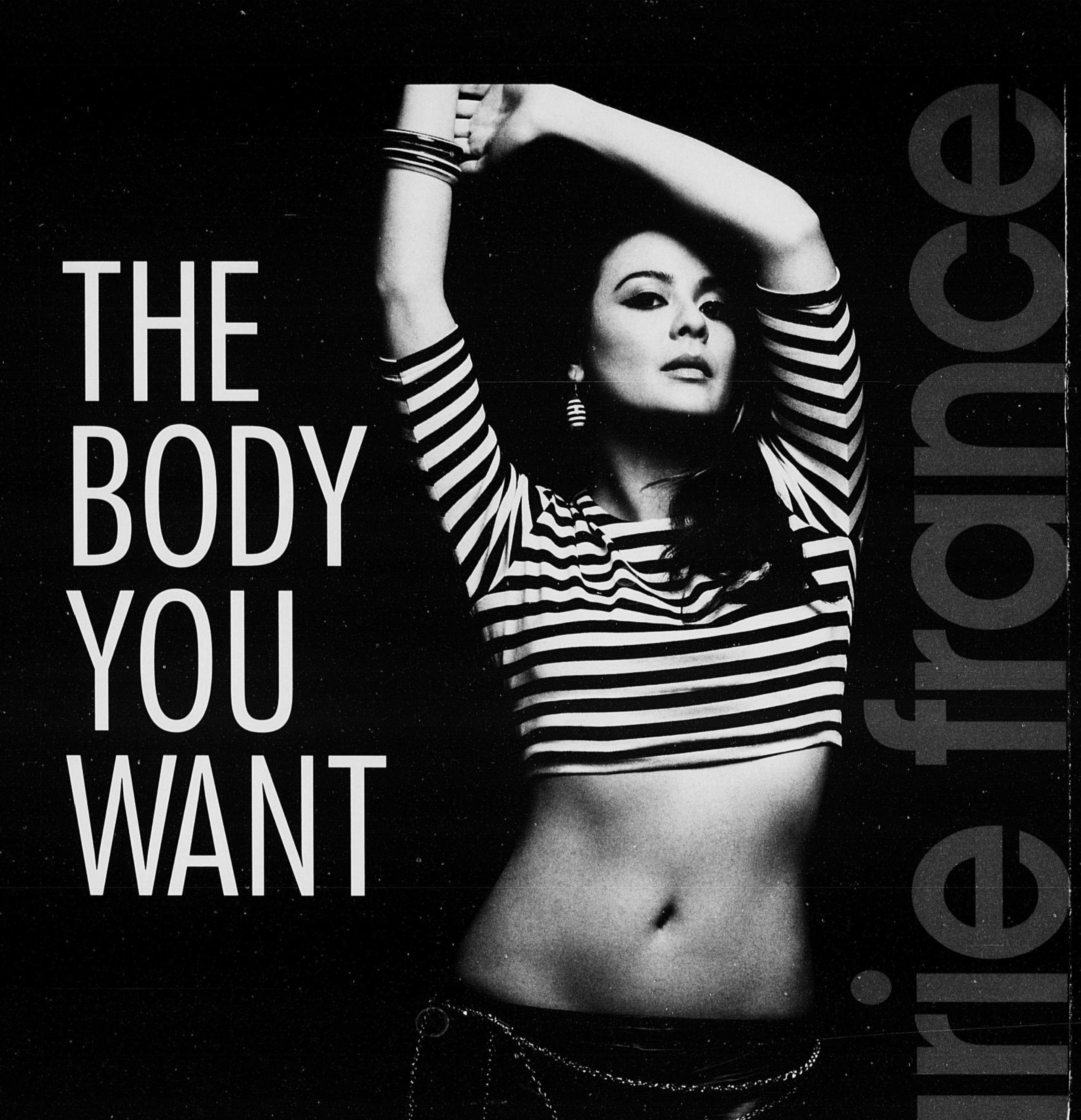
While waiting for liempo to tenderize, do a few sit-ups. After, you can prepare the glaze. Just mix 1/8 tsp five-spice powder, juice of 1/2 an orange, zest of 1 orange, salt and pepper, and 1/2 cup Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce.

Soon, pork will be tender. Let sit to cool and dry for 3 hours or more. Then deep fry in oil until golden brown. Chop. Heat glaze and apply on pork.

Serve to the sure to be applauding date. How about you?

What's your Jufran® today?

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